三周目転生 まれ変わったら迷宮を彷徨う

星熊 ねおいっか

角川スニーカー文庫

自動販売機に
生まれ変わった僕は
迷宮を彷徨う
昼熊
加藤いつわ
角川スニーカー文庫

lang="en">

Reincarnated Into a Vending Machine - WN Chapter 16-38

Table of Contents

1. The Work of Rebuilding
2. Gold Coins and Silver Coins
3. The Adult Vending Machine
4. Lottery
5. Abduction
6. Abductors
7. Magic Tool Engineer Hyurumi
8. The Way to Satisfy Desire
9. Whereabouts
10. As a Vending Machine Maniac
11. Together with You
12. The Devotion to You
13. Threat
14. Overthrow, Chain Restaurant!
15. Expedition and Bargaining
16. Canned Oden
17. Spring is Coming
18. Companion for the Journey
19. Dealing with Alligators
20. Alligator Killing
21. The Fighting Vending Machine
22. Falling
23. A New Power

The Work of Rebuilding

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

The Work of Rebuilding

Greetings, I am a vending machine. My residence has changed from being in front of the inn to being in front of the Hunter's Association.

Munami and Okami-san energetically flew out since early this morning. That's right, because the inn that was turned into rubble was completely taken down, looks like they can start rebuilding.

It seems like the inn is vital to the community, so the rebuilding cost is coming from the Hunter Association; this time it looks like they're going to put up an even more extravagant inn; the laugh the two had at that time was a little frightening.
-tte, this atmosphere is really tiring, so stop.
Switching gears, I thought I'd pull my feelings together and join them, but I'm not going to do anything I'm not used to.

Yesterday I splurged too much so from today on I'll completely take in the profits. Because, since earlier I've already sold a ton of goods.

Since the early morning, former drunks who've become like the dead appeared shakily in front of me; one by one my products were sold. Yesterday, because most of the guys who bought my products for the first time because they were free came back, it's a situation where I can't stop grinning … Just as planned -!

Shortly after Ramis woke up the Bear President called us, and we entered the Association. Today the operation of surveying the perimeters is finished, so they must be happy.

Since this morning cup ramen has been selling like crazy; there are people who have lost their cooking implements who came to buy it, but for the most part it's

people got to caught up in the merry making yesterday and didn't feel like cooking.

Frankly speaking, since everyone was going to be troubled with money problems, I was going to set the price of the cup ramen at a deficit, but it turns out that everyone had already prepared for the destruction of their houses, and most of the money was deposited within the Hunter Association's storage.

All the merchants are also expecting large amounts of carpenters and Hunters aiming for defense escort requests to come flooding in from today onwards, so they're busy preparing for business. They're overflowing with vitality, these residents are.

"Hakkon! We got a request directly from the President. Isn't it amazing?"

"Welcome."

It's quite the noteworthy promotion. But, the prediction of the contents is as expected.

"It's, guess what, a rubble removal quest dayo!"

Riiiight~? Knowing about that super-strength, anyone would think of that kind of request.

With a strength comparable to construction machinery and even heavy machinery, it's a site where she can full-heartedly demonstrate it. Even if she breaks something due to over-excessive strength there's no problem; even if she has a limited amount of skill you can rest assured.

"I'd like to first level the spot where the inn was. They say they want to erect the new inn immediately."

If a lot of people overwhelmingly come flooding in, then the first would have to be the inn. Simple tents have been set up in large quantities in front of the Hunter's Association, but anyone would think of a proper inn for comfortably resting your body.
-tte, in other words, I want to return to that "home".

While carrying me Ramis arrived in front of the former-inn; Okami-san and Munami-san have already begun removing the rubble. The two are both in the

inn's uniform, but because of the labor looks like they're in trousers underneath the skirt. If that's the case I think it would be fine to just not wear the skirt, but it's probably these women's pride.

"Munamiii, Okami-saaaaan. I've come to help-!"

"Rami, so you came. With this we got the super-human strength ne. Hakkon's with you too, morning-."

"Welcome."

I urgently want to be able to say "Good morning" and "Good evening". Since everyone's used to it, even though I give my normal greeting they accept it though.

"Eeeto, the rubble is deposited on that tray over there; it looks like it's fine if you just take it to in front of the gate. 'Cause there are people there who came to separate it into burnables and non-burnables."

"A, ok. Then, after it's all piled up, I'll carry it. Hakkon will be here, so you can sell everyone drinks and stuff ne."

"Welcome."

Being placed in the usual place, I wonder why I feel so relieved.

O-, one after another people are coming over. From what I see there's a lot of young people in particular; I recognize the faces of some people as ones we accompanied during the subjugation. I wonder if the young Hunters are going around removing rubble.

"O, here's the spot. –tte, isn't the box with a will of its own here too? Alright, lucky."

"A-, you're right. We'll be able to get tasty food whenever we want!"

"The reconstruction work request has a good reward, so we'll use it well na."

I will gladly take this bounty. After a while it looks like sports drinks will sell. Before my eyes they're lining up in large numbers.
Now then, let's look at everyone who's working hard.

Only the Hunters with competitive strength are here; there's a lot of young

boys here as helpers working hard too. Okami-san and Munami are also not losing against them in their movements. I totally understand that the inn's work is labor-intensive.

But, with a flourish that those men can't hope to compare with, is Ramis. A pillar that would take three of them to lift and carry, with a light heave she's able to lift and carry it to the tray.

For the rubble that's too big to carry, she'll pummel it with her fists and kick it down to a convenient size. The Hunters who witnessed it were struck dumb with amazement. No wonder. A petite, sweet-looking girl swinging a by no-means common super-human strength is too much of a gap. It would be stranger not to be surprised.

"We've got a lot so I'll take it away-. Up it goes!"

Originally the trays should be carried by boars with horns ––– Unasusu, and horse-like animals, but with that girl's strength there's absolutely no problems; like it was obvious she went and carried them by herself.
All the Hunters gazed blankly at her figure going away slowly.

"Amazing, that girl. We can't be left behind."

"That has to be the power of a Divine Gift. But anyway, that's amazing super-strength."

"When the reconstruction work settles down, I'd want to invite her onto the team, but with a talent like she's probably already scouted by a famous team."

I've been listening in on the guys' talking, but Ramis seems to be getting a high evaluation. With just working hard the Hunters can see her excellence. I understand, I totally understand. But the truth is she doesn't have any Hunter comrades.

Right now she gets along great with the residents of the community, but when it comes to the Hunters, aside from the President and the whatever-they're-called brigade, I don't think she can even have a decent conversation.

Previously because that girl's power was unmanageable to the degree it was pointless, it looks like everyone she grouped with would treat her as a burden. This girl has the monopoly on the so-called simple physical labor. Her Hunter's

requests too, like this her main evaluation will probably change.

“I’m back-!” Ok, time to go full power-.”

From the dust cloud in the distance being rolled up and coming closer, I had thought so, but when she isn’t carrying any weight her legs are really fast na. But, without being burdened with something as heavy as me her body is too light and she can’t move as she expects to; it’s a troublesome constitution.

It was grumbled about before, but without some degree of weight she can only run; it seems like moving is a difficult feeling and she feels like she’s bouncing around. The gauntlets for her arms are already prepared with iron plates; looks like she just needs to adjust the weight.

Since she regularly moves while suppressing her power, she made countless mistakes when her body wouldn’t move like she wanted, and the surroundings treated her like a dunce. That is the reason for the reactions that girl was faced with.

She had also been the student of a Hunter with remarkable ability at one point, but that Hunter left on a journey about two months ago; she was always being burdened with fully-loaded bottles of water, she told me nostalgically.

“O-, they’re at it, they’re at it. Ramis-chan, Hakkon, you guys doing well-?”

At this place where the hard work makes sweat run like streamers, the man who just arrived with half-awake eyes, a big yawn, and stubble; it’s Brigade Leader Keryoil. <T/N: formerly Kerioiru>

I wonder if that ten-gallon hat that looks like it came out of a Western is his favorite; even when he was in the campground he was still wearing it. He’s certainly got skill, but those glances he sends this way from time to time gives a suspicious feel to him; honestly I can’t get wipe the image from my mind that he’s an old man that absolutely can’t be trusted.

“O,oi, that man, isn’t he the leader of the Fools of Whimsy Brigade?”

“The top class, in that hunter team-”

“I wonder if he’ll shake hands with me after this.”

All the young Hunters here working stopped their hands; they’ve become

excited.

What the hell. So Leader Keryoil is famous. He's skilled, his brigade members seem to love him; to think he's got this popular-guy setting. Even though that Brigade, the Fools of Whimsy Brigade, has that suspicious naming sense, it's well known in the Hunter community.

"O-, gentlemen, you're doing your best ne-. For the hard working young ones, this old man will hand over a reward. Come choose what you want from Hakkon, my treat. Naturally, those young girls and everyone over there are welcome too."

Uwaa, this is my first time seeing someone who purely uses those kind of pompous words. I can't decide whether he's serious or acting, but whichever it is, I'm not good with this person.
All the young Hunters make a fuss, but Ramis, Munami, and Okami-san don't change, na. They're calmly scheming.

"So you'll treat. Theen, for myself … this and this."

"Rami-, in cases like this you should start with the most expensive ones, yo."

"Well then, for my appetizers, I guess I'll have about 100 of the one with the stewed items."

Yo, you merciless two over there. Since they run an inn, I guess they know how to deal with this kind of fellow.

"Th, that's a bit… if you could make do with up to two per person, ne."

Peering into the bag with his money in it, Leader Keryoil's cheeks twitched. That's good, do it more.

At a glance, he looks like a weak person who can be easily pushed around … with his sleepy looking face that has no tension, but when you see the sharp gleam in his eyes underneath the brim of his hat, that impression is blown away.

"Ramis-chan, do you have any interest in entering my brigade? Of course, along with Hakkon na."

It's like he's using food to bait her; that kind of ridiculous thing came out of his mouth as he clasps Ramis by the shoulder.

Without any indirectness at all, that direct solicitation came. I wonder how Ramis will reply. Looking at how the surrounding Hunters have jealous faces, just what is this Fools of Whimsy Brigade. Being invited here must be quite the honor.

"Right, no thanks."

Ramis replied immediately like that, and brushed off the hand on her shoulder. Good job, I'm touched.
He didn't think he would be refused at all; his eyes and mouth are as wide open as they can get. A, your trademark hat is slipping.

"I, I see. Ma, maa, think it over. If you change your mind just come over. –tto, I'd also like to buy water from Hakkon. The hangover from yesterday is awful …"

"Ira-shyaimase."
(welcome.)
(ira <- annoyance)

A, his hat is on the verge of slipping off.

---

1. Okami-san – refers to the female proprietress of an inn. I was going to translate it to Ms Proprietress-san, but mah, Okami-san is easier to deal with in the long run.
2. Kerioiru – switched it to Keryoil because Kerioiru seems harder to say, I tried to make it more fantasy-ish, the –i in ri can sometimes be translated to –y, and -ru on an ending can be translated to –l if you feel like it (though in the end, unless there's an insert/illustration with the romanji, all these mods are up to the translator's taste). That being said … sigh. This is why katakana's a pain.

<T/N: Ah, so hi those of you who are here for the first time, I'm the one who asked if I could step up to take over Vending Machine.
For those of you who aren't here for the first time, I've been considering picking up another slice-of-life series after OVRMMO's Fairy Arc for a while now, and the timing almost (ALMOST) perfectly coincided for me to pick this up from the

previous translator (at http://novelsjapan.com). Rest assured, this shouldn't interfere too much with OVRMMO and Wfb updates. However, Vending Machine will be translated at a slower rate. My apologies to those this will impact.
BTW, anyone know if I have to do anything, or will novelupdates just pick up the fact that I'm translating this somehow?

Now then, should I keep it as "Divine Gift" or revert the term back to "Divine Protection" when they're talking about the special skills?>

Gold Coins and Silver Coins

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Gold Coins and Silver Coins

Leader Keryoil unsteadily tottered back in grief.

In my opinion the refusal was obviously the correct answer. Even if it's a famous brigade, if you enter it then your battle scenes will increase. I understand the reason why Hunters would do so even if it brings them side-by-side with danger. But you know, right now that girl is among veterans, without worries; here she can take her time to sit down and stretch, and I think it's a convenient place.

But, all of that is my opinion; the important point is Ramis' opinion, why did Ramis refuse?[1] This didn't remain a mystery.

"Oi oi, you, why did you refuse an invitation to the Fools of Whimsy!?"

O, short-haired Hunter, nice tsukkomi. That, that's what I want to know.

"N-, because, this town is in the middle of reconstruction. If there's not enough people to help, won't it be a problem?"

All the Hunters who heard her weren't able to close their mouths. A-, Ramis … I don't think he particularly meant right away. If you said something you probably could have waited and joined after the reconstruction was over.

"OK, everyone let's continue to work hard, ne!"

Everyone other than that girl heaved a sigh and went back to work. Not understanding the situation, with her head tilted to one side, Ramis also returned to removing rubble.

Like that, nothing particularly interesting happened after. And then it was noon. I sold tons of cup ramen and oden to the inn reconstruction corps, and

then, burdening Ramis once again, I moved to the front of the Hunter Association.
To everyone who had been waiting for our arrival, one after another I sold goods to. With this kind of trend, I'll make back my minuses from yesterday in a flash.

Most of the customers who have purchased things before have returned, but today there are also a lot of people who haven't tried even once before. With all these faces I don't recognize, that means they're people who have just come to this Clear Stream's lake level.

These people's common points are having a cloth wrapped around their heads with long ends, and wearing trousers with a lot of pockets. How do I say it, they're really carpenter-like. Just from what I've seen, there are roughly about 100 people here, zo. With this, the community's population will probably jump up to at least double the original.

What a paaain-, haven't I just about sold out of goods again? What a paaain-, what should I do, what should I do … I guess I'll calculate my points later.

"Yoooosh, Hakkon let's get back to woork-."

"Welcome."

Once again I return to my original position in front of the inn; the people who come to buy things accompany me while they spend. Suddenly there's a person standing in front of me.

So people who wear glasses and suits exist in this world. Wearing black-rimmed glasses, with a green shirt and a skirt that reaches slightly above the knees, is a woman; she's really staring in my direction.
If we were in Japan she would be an accountant or a lawyer type of person. With her sharp, upward-slanting eyes, she's a beautiful woman who has a bit of a scary image.

Behind her, standing over 2 meters away, is a giant man; I assume that man is an acquaintance. With an inverted triangle body shape mass of muscles and long arms^2, on his face he has a wrinkle between his brows, downward-slanting eyes, and a low nose. Honestly, from a first impression, it's a gorilla with the good parts of a human.

His clothes are really tight and suit-ish; it looks like it will rip at any moment. He's carrying an enormous backpack-like thing.

"There's no mistake that you are the box with a will. It appears you are called Hakkon-sama."

Suddenly she throws those words at me. E, exactly how should I respond? Fo, for now, let's just make my usual greeting.

"Welcome."

"According to the information that was previously investigated, that was what we can assume to be 'yes', I believe."

… It's so hard! Talking to this person!
Her facial expression doesn't change one bit; this air of intimidation isn't half-baked at all. Just having her look at me and my body stiffens. Maa, I'm a vending machine though.
I wonder what her objective is. It looks like a serious-ish talk, but wha, what should I do?

"Are? Hakkon, what's going on? Umm, who might you be?"

Ramis popped out from behind me, showing her face, and without hesitation she called out to the black glasses lady.

"You are Ramis-san, correct? Please excuse me. I am in the money-exchange business; you can call me Akoui. From hereon I hope to become acquainted with you. The one waiting behind be is my assistant, Gogai."

"It is a pleasure to meet you."

The cold, clear voiced Akoui and the warm, laid-back tone of Gogai. A pair of two extremes they are.

But, money exchangers, huh. It's like that, in the modern age where they exchange Yen to Dollars. Certainly in the old days there were professions to exchange gold coins for silver coins, and vice-versa. They're something like the original banks is what I heard from somewhere.

"I have received information that this Level has a shortage of silver coins, and so we have come concerning this."

Who is it, the guy who's hoarding silver coins. For crying out loud, what an outrage.

"A-, that's because you can only pay Hakkon in silver coins!"

Shhh, Ramis, you can't say that. E, could it be, that another way to say their complaint is that hoarding all of one type of coin caused it to stagnate in circulation?
Even if you say that, since they're converted into points there's nothing you can do about it now.

"So it was like that after all. With that, we have come here and decided to offer an opportunity, a proposal for Hakkon-sama. We have brought about 100 gold coins, so why don't we exchange them with some of your hoarded silver coins?"

Are, it's a business discussion? I don't really have any opinions on exchanging silver and gold coins, but I'm pretty sure 1 gold coin is the same value as about 100 silver coins. In Japanese Yen, a gold coin is probably around 100,000, probably. Maa, there's probably some fluctuations in there, but overall that's probably what it's worth. But anyway, 100 gold coins is a really large amount of money to be carrying. Is that gonna be ok?
I'd like to exchange it if I can, but how should I go about it?
There's probably some function like <Exchange>. But for a regular vending machine, they don't usually have an exchange function. Eeto, looking quickly, it doesn't look like it's there.
"Too bad."

"Does that mean you won't accept?"

I'm terribly sorry. I'd like to if I could, but I have no way to.

"A, even if exchanging is impossible, it might be fine to buy things with gold coins. Like that you might be able to get them as change, maybe?"

At Ramis' casual words, Akoui's head, which was hanging slightly in disappointment, regained its vigor and faced forward. Her eyes were sparkling with fire; it was the first time I saw something like emotions from her.

Actually, I wonder what would happen if you put gold coins in. Up until now there hasn't been even once where gold coins were inserted. It's a situation

where I don’t know if you’ll get change, since there’s not been a brave soul who was willing to use a gold coin and test it out.

“I see! In other words, Gogai, buy something. With gold coins.”

A, the first investor, huh. Wh, what should I do? If, by any chance, the change doesn’t come out, then I’ll try to return the gold coin as is.

Oo-, for the first time in my vending machine life a gold coin is inside Mine body. If they buy a one silver coin product, then 99 silver coins should come out as a result. Men should have guts; let’s try it out.

For the first ever, a feeling welled up and the vending machine vibrated with its entire being. This is, I guess it means a gold coin has entered my body. This isn’t time to be immersed in the afterglow. What of the change?

Clanking, silver coins flowed into the change tray; the overflowing silver coins spilled onto the ground. All the surrounding Hunters were watching swallowed their saliva.

So the change came out normally. If it didn’t I might have been treated like a thief.

“Like this it’s fine, ne. Let’s keep on buying.”

Gold coins were put in one after another, and silver coins were ejected one after another. Gogai bent that enormous body over and gathered the silver coins that were left.

After 10 gold coins had been put in, Akoui-san also seems to be satisfied. With a pleased face she gazes at the backpack stuffed with silver coins.

“Any more than this and we might burden Hakkon-sama, so we’ll stop here for now. Then, in the future, we’ll come to buy things. From here on, continue at your discretion.”

Her retreating figure almost looks like its skipping. Without any trouble, Gogai-san carries the backpack stuffed with a large amount of coin and goods. It’s a muscle strength that doesn’t go against his appearance.
We’ll probably have a long relationship with those people. They don’t seem to be difficult people though.

“Hakkon, you had an amazing amount of money, ne. Be careful so no one steals from you.”

“Welcome.”

That’s true. Maa, if I’m ever destroyed and dismantled, I have suspicions about whether there will be coins or not inside, though. Since it’s a system where even the goods are spouted out, aside from whether or not the coins are inside my body, it’s more a feeling that things appear when they’re requested for.

During the span of this discussion, there was many a hot stare directed in my direction. From the young Hunters’ point of view, right now there are 10 gold coins sucked into my body; it must look like a really enticing opportunity.

Oh yeah, a vending machine won’t be left somewhere with poor public order, like that, the fact that Japan has vending machines is good evidence that there’s peace and security.
For a while, it looks like it’ll be good to be wary of the people who will be thinking about doing stupid things.

“A, right, right. Sorry, Hakkon! I kept forgetting to tell you, but it looks like we won’t be able to meet with Hyurumi for a while. I sent a letter but there wasn’t a response … it’s probably that she’s moving between Levels. So, until we get a response we’ll be on standby here, ok?”

To the Ramis with her hands together and *pekopeko* lowering her head at me, I reply “Welcome.” For a second, I couldn’t remember who Hyurumi was, but it’s the magic-tool engineer friend she told me about when we met for the first time, huh.
Oh yeah, there was that kind of goal too; like a bystander would, I had that kind of thought.

It was a day with a strange encounter, but the first day of reconstruction ended without anything particularly problematic to report. When night came, I remained at my spot in front of the Hunter’s Association and the dinner goods also sold out; I stared absentmindedly as the community’s lights went out one after another.

There’s something like a magic tool here in place of light bulbs, and the community has these lights scattered about, but as expected, compared to

Japan’s nights it’s pretty dark. Since magic tools look like they’re pretty expensive, it looks like the common household doesn’t use them. There are also quite a few of the standard lanterns and tents with torches.
Just within range of the lights is it bright, but just go a little away you’re standing in a deep, black darkness.

The spot I’m in is away from light, so normally people would have a hard time spotting me. But, I am a vending machine. Because I emit a personal light, like usual I stand out because I’m weird.

However, today I turned off Bright Luminescence Mode and, furthermore, I selected the Coating Change function, and painted my body completely black all over. At the time of the exchange there were Hunters watching too, but there was one look that was from the small-time villain who had been aiming for money during the expedition. With the night’s darkness they can take cover in, they come hoping to avoid too much trouble.

“Are-, it looks like it’s always right around here.”

“Isn’t it ‘cause it doesn’t have any way to move? I mean, look, that super-strength girl is always carrying it around, right?”

“Dammit, it would have been easier to get around it at the inn site.”

Just when I was talking about them. It’s not the young Hunters we were working with, but a group of 3 men who look like they were looking for me.

Actually, in case they try to make a pass at me I still have <Barrier>, and if I playback my voice at the highest maximum volume, countless numbers of people will come flooding out of the Hunter’s Association so there’s no problem. But you know, if this can be dealt with peacefully, that would be for the best.

---

1. kanjin na Ramis wa naze kotowattanoka – I don’t know if it’s a change that needs its own writeup, but saying “why did the important Ramis refuse” kind of made it sound like Ramis was feeling self-important for some reason so she refused, but the implication is that Ramis’ opinion is more important than the MC’s own, so I mussed with the sentence a little.

2. inverted triangle– refers to the body profile of broad shoulders, narrow waist. Often indicates a very masculine, buff body.

<T/N: Fumu, I've been having insomnia, so OVRMMO and Wfb will be out in just a few more days. I'd say 2 at max, but that's if I can trick myself into sleeping. When I'm this loopy, my time management gets a little wonky. Also my judgment goes down the tubes. Are? Why did I start translating ANOTHER series?>

The Adult Vending Machine

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

<t/n: Warning: Some sex-ed talk.>

The Adult Vending Machine

It's been one week since then. The community is in full-on reconstruction mode; people and money have been flowing in in huge numbers; it's become pretty lively.
A way to tell the new residents apart is whether or not they're surprised at seeing me. It's truly easy to understand.

With just this number of people, though it's actually kind of a mystery as to how the Hunter Association that runs the community can provide for them all, but one way or another, the material from the two-headed snake and demon frogmen became quite the earnings; it seems it's become an outrageous amount of gold coins.

By the way, the subjugation party has already received the promised reward from the previous time, and in exchange it's contracted so that all the material drops from the monsters are acquired by the Hunter Association; the Hunters who had to carry it themselves were pretty bitter about it.

In the end, it looks like the Hunters who had participated in the subjugation of the King Frogman received a separate additional reward, and with that no complaints came from anyone's mouths. Come to think of it, the Hunters who couldn't escape because of their wounds came with a "It was all because of you, so thank you" and bought huge amounts from me.

It looks like that two-headed snake is a monster called Jyasouma[1], and seems like it's an inhabitant of this Seiryuu's Lake Level. As expected, it seems like it's

the natural enemy of the frog people; usually we are able to avoid it when the clashes between the two break out, but this time when the Jyasouma went out, it seems it had been strengthening its body as it attacked small frog people communities.

And so, from the frog community we were fighting this time, eating the frogs that had increased a lot on the way, it found the community humans were living in; that's the Hunter Association's view on the matter.
But maa, if you're wondering how I know so much about it, by the way, it's because I'm currently in the Hunter Association President's office.

"So, *maa*, that's about the gist of the case this time. And Ramis and Hakkon, you both did well. If you guys weren't there, then the possibility that the situation would become the worst was especially high, so I give you my thanks."

"Th, that's, please raise your head!"

From the sofa interposed from the large desk, the bear President half-rose and lowered his head, and Ramis, in order to try to stop him, was violently waving both arms. Her movements were so violent that a wind began to spin. Super-strength, how terrifying.
And then, standing beside these two is a vending machine. If someone from Earth saw this, they'd probably be doubting their eyes *na*.

"The reason we called you today was also to give an explanation to the separate reward for this time's case, but there was also a matter we'd like to consult with Hakkon."

I wonder what it is. He's being so formal and even stiffening up. The bear President's eyes have hints of earnestness; somehow my animal-like instincts are whispering to run away. I'm a vending machine, though.

I know that he's a good person inside, but when there's a huge bear at full force right in front of your eyes, it's really not that easy to get used to it.

"Hakkon, I heard that you were able to put out any product that the other party wants, but I was wondering if that was true."

Another excessive expectation. Certainly I have the ability to choose what products I stock according to what someone wants, but the products are limited

to [vending machine products I have purchased before].

If I could put out anything, then I could have set up pistols and weapons and that fight would probably have become something fun. Something vending machines don't sell is impossible, and just saying, I can brag that I've basically bought any product that I've seen, but even then there was still probably vending machine products that I didn't know about in that world.
That's why the answer is "no", but I want to convey that I can to some degree.
How should I respond?

"Welco-Too bad."

"*Mu*, what does that mean?"

"Probably, Hakkon means that he can, but there are also things that he can't."

"Welcome"

Ramis' interpretation helps out a lot.
The bear President also understands now, and nods his head many times. A, he looks like a bear at the zoo begging for food; oops, I shouldn't be thinking that.

"So that's it. Then, since there's a possibility, there's a matter I'd like to discuss. A-, Ramis, could you leave for a bit? This is something I'd like to talk to Hakkon about privately."

"That's fine; uuum, would it be fine if I waited on the first floor?"

"Aa, please. As soon as we're done, I'll send someone to let you know."

"Un, got it. Talks between men are things you don't want to get involved with; Mother always said that too. Then, I'll be waiting below."

"Thank you very much."

Because I called out to her as she was leaving, Ramis turned and waved her arm wildly then shut the door.
Behind closed doors is a bear and a vending machine. Though if that guy doesn't hurry up and start the discussion then there's no way to continue the discussion.

"First let me explain the situation. Currently, this community is getting overrun with a huge amount of people. Formerly, three years ago, this was a much more prosperous community … no, you could call it on the scale of a town."

I can tell that the people are increasing just from looking at the sales, but that something or other happened three years ago was something I had heard from the mouths of Okami-san and Karios.

So here was once a place you could call a town without hesitation … huh. The buildings in the area around the Hunter Association are really nice too; I did think that this community was too big for about 100 people no matter how you looked at it, but I see, I get it now.

“That one year many of the citizens died in great numbers, and the ones left alive all left this place. The ones who remained were like Hunters and the merchant types with strong enterprising spirits, *na*. Here, there isn’t a single thing under taxes. The intentions on the ones who remained behind were, in this one year, without any timidity, to recover the damages that were lost.”

The people here are really strong. Just one resident alone is reliable.

“This time against the Jyasouma, that it was repulsed without any casualties got spread around, and the praises for the defense team were spread loudly; all of the people hoping to immigrate gathered, and that is how the current trend of prosperity came to be. We’re not just repairing the ruined buildings, we have plans to construct new residences and shops too.”

There are more and more money making opportunities! I wonder what new products and features I should do, though right now I shouldn’t be thinking about that.

“As people increase, various problems come up. For things related to food we’ve put our hopes on Hakkon, and because the shop keepers also understand there are large amounts of goods flowing in, so there are no worries there.”

Fumu fumu. This is probably the first time there was a stand in front of the Hunter Association too. Recently, cup ramen sales have been falling, so it’s about time I chose a new product. *Maa*, for that loss, the beverages have been selling well so the total sales haven’t changed though.

As expected, the veterans that have survived Japan’s widely diverse beverage industry have taste, sensation, and the ideas are new-like, so right now they’ll easily triumph over the drinks in this other world.

“Sorry, my story strayed a bit. Now then, we’re getting to the main part. Currently, what we believe to be the most pressing concern relates to the sex industry. We Bearfolk have a very slim desire in that regards as long as it’s not breeding season, but that’s not the case for Humans. Before the increase of people, it was a situation where the demand was supplied for.”

So this is where the talk was headed. No wonder Ramis was withdrawn.

That the Bear President was a race called the Bearfolk is also an important piece of information, but let’s leave that for right now. *U-n*, I have a metal body so it looks like I have been freed from those ‘desires’, but I know the compulsion well.

“There’s also a hygienic problem that comes with that; if a disease began to be spread, then it would delay the reconstruction work. And so, because of that, we’d like to strengthen our control over this, but then other problems will spring up. I understand this is an absurd request, but Hakkon, do you not have any counter-measures?”

That really is an absurd proposal. U, u-n, a counter-measure against disease did come to mind. It’s just, I don’t know the state of this world very well, so the question is whether or not something similar to this exists or not.
Let’s just try to put one out, then see what his reaction is.

This is a box-shaped product, so if I don’t add the function it won’t work, huh? Uuuum <Boxed Product Support> should be fine? *Fumu fumu*, with this I can have the option for boxed snacks and cigarettes. The problem is, since I haven’t smoked a cigarette even once, I’ll have to give up on selling cigarettes.
I’ve also added the product, so let’s set it up.

“Hou, so you can switch the products to be all the same item like this. *Fumu*, it’s all this box. This is Hakkon’s plan?”

“Welcome.”

“Then, I will try buying them. It looks like there are three types, so I guess I’ll buy all of them. But for them to be 10 silver coins, it’s not cheap.”

Since one box is about 1,000 yen in Japan, I set it according to the price of the beverages, but if it’s too high then I’ll think about changing it.

“So I should open the box. There’s a small pouch with notch in it. Do I tear it from there and take out the contents?”

“Welcome.”

“*Fumu*, so it looks like I’m not wrong. This looks like it will be a little difficult to handle with my hands. That’s right, this is a good place to call that girl. Shirley, please come here.”

In response to the Bear President’s call, the single door set in the wall that was not alongside the corridor opened, and from there a single lady’s figure appeared.

In an evening dress that clings to the body with a slit going up past the hips, with every step you catch a glimpse of her captivatingly long, slender, porcelain-like legs. Both her shoulders are bared, and her breasts as well are daringly displayed in a cut down to her stomach; your eyes are drawn to the valley of her abundant chest.

To say she was an exhibit of the ideal body-style wouldn’t be an exaggeration, she’s a woman who would even incite jealousy in those of her own gender, and it’s not just her body. The facial features displayed up top won’t lose to anyone either.

Glossy black hair flowing down her back, eyes half-open with a somehow sleepy look, light red, moist lips together, all of it brings about a sublime seductiveness.
A, this person is related to that kind of business. She has an attraction to her that seems to declare that.

“*Ara*, so this should be Hakkon-san *kashira*. A pleasure to meet you; I’m Shirley. Thank you for you aid in this matter.”

Her smiling face is also seductive. If I didn’t have a vending machine as a body, I wouldn’t be able to meet her eyes with any decency. How her legs were placed when she sat on the sofa was somewhat; it’s like you should be able to see it, but you can’t see it, just barely, so you have to imagine it.

“This is a product that Hakkon suggested, but with these hands it will be difficult for me to handle it, so if you wouldn’t mind doing it instead.”

“Of course *desuwa*. This is a product for our sakes, after all. Tear here, I suppose … *ara*, this is, what a mysterious material *desuwa*. How it stretches and contracts is somehow amusing *wa*.”

I wonder what’s with this kind of immoral mood.

“There’s a slimy liquid sticking to one side, isn’t there? What is this used for?”

“That is, I have no idea. Oh yeah, there was a piece of paper in the box. Try reading it.”

“I will take a look *suwa*. A, so that’s what it is. There’s an illustration to help make it easier to understand.”

I wish she’d stop her bewitching smile. It feels like it will arouse some kind of malfunction in the vending machine.

“Oo, I think I understand. The ways this is supposed to be used.”

“Once this is equipped to that place on the gentleman, then it can be inserted into the lady’s private area. According to the types of boxes, the gentleman’s largeness can be supported *desuwa*. With just this thinness, it won’t get in the way of the action, and yet it also protects against diseases; what a splendid luxuriousness.”

As expected of a Pro. She figured out a condom in one go, huh? She’s not just putting on a show, she honestly seems delighted.

By the way, this is a digression, but you should know the SML sizes that the boxes have. I can’t set up any products other than the ones that I had bought while I was alive, so why can I assemble the three various sizes? Vanity and pride and reality are all I’m going to say. If you’re a man, then everyone has gone and tried it out in preparation for the real thing right … right?
Shirley went through the boxes and checked the sizes, quantities, and prices, taking notes and nodding lightly.

“We will definitely come purchase these. If you have any other products you can suggest, I would be willing to take a look.”

C, can’t be helped. If you say it like that, I guess I have no choice but to show them. M, maa, I also didn’t really buy too many adult-related products, so there

aren’t that many products to put in order.

After that, somehow the business consultation was completed and Shirley-san, with undulating hips, left the President’s office. Her last words that she whispered, “If you were a man, then I would personally be your partner; what a shame *desuwa*,” were *way sick*.
But, when I reunited with Ramis,

“*Are*, Hakkon, your body is a little hot. Did something good happen?”

When I was told that I went entirely cold, worrying about if the heat insulation function was broken. Her sharp instincts can be good and bad; this was the first time I thought that.

---

1. jyasouma – written with the kanji for “snake” “pair” and “evil/demon”. I did think about calling it an Evil Twin Serpent or whatever, but stringing words together to make a unique-sounding species works way better in Japanese than English, and in the end it won’t sound much different from “two-headed snake”. Species of snakes are usually called something other than “such and such snake” anyway (like a viper, or cobra or something), so it’s not too weird to just keep it as jyasouma, I think.

<T/n: I feel like I missed something. I didn’t realize the president was ACTUALLY a bear. o.0
I don’t know how embarrassing the second half of this chapter is just reading, but there was definitely some secondhand embarrassment while translating. But I did my best and tried not to do any extra translator censorship. (tbh, trying to keep it as verbatim as possible is what probably made it more embarrassing.)
And no, the guys trying to rob him were not mentioned again. I kept thinking I was missing a chapter, but this is the next one. Either he ate them, or it just wasn’t worth mentioning because they were driven off easily.>

Lottery

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Lottery

Looks like I got my hands on another new function.

I've been thinking that I wanted this function from way before, but I ended up dragging it out because I was always busy with something. Recently things have calmed down a little, so I made up my mind and took it.

"Congratulations. You have won another bottle."
("Atari ga detara mou ippon")[1]

"Alright, alright, come on, come on, 7, 7, siiix, WHAAAaaat!"

"Too bad."

That's right, the real goal is to finally have the possibility to use this voice-clip. I have added the lottery function. If the 777 number is lined up then you win and get another; it's something that anyone has hopes for at least once.

Since I've first installed it, sales have grown close to 30%. Since this community doesn't have many entertainment facilities, even though it's such a simple slot machine like thing, people who get really into it appear one after another.
In addition, between the residents they say that if you win you'll have good luck for the rest of the day; that sort of suspicious rumor is spreading, and the people who come to buy things to test their luck are increasing.

Even though it as something designed to bring a little spice and fun into everyday life, one of my regulars has unexpectedly become addicted; today as well he's pointlessly buying up loads of products.

"Calm down, I should calm down. This is, this is going to be the last one. If I go with the probability up until now, water has the greatest winning possibility.

Therefore buying water will be the shortest path to certain victory!”

That’s, I think the frequency went up because you’re overwhelmingly buying water, old man.

With bloodshot eyes and ragged breathing, his finger on top of the button and letting out a yell, it’s one of the three of my morning regulars, the old man. Up until there had been many times where he had come together with the old woman, but after the Lottery was implemented, he’d come alone early in the morning at a time when no one else was around and spin the slots at least six times before he went back.

Incidentally, it’s possible for those who installed a vending machine to freely change the winning percentages of a vending machine’s slot function.
And, for some trivia, there’s a rumor that if you want to win the slots, you should choose unpopular products.

Even though it’s a slot-machine system, there are also things like the winning chances are dictated by how the commodities are displayed, or the limit in premiums for rewards are generally already decided, or that the chances are 2% of the estimated total sales.
In other words, if you buy 100 bottles of the product, if you are supplied with at least 2 bottles, you’re doing well.

Maa, when it’s all said and done, in the end it’s all luck, you know. If you want to win no matter what, you have to sink money in like you want to buy up everything in order to secure your win.

“Everything for this one chance, all of my gambling life-!”

“What are you doing, Grandfather …”

Right in front of the old man, when he turned around while making a face like, “Uh oh-!”, is the old woman, raising her cane over her head with a smiling face. So he’s finally been caught. Well yeah, if he sneaks out of the house early every morning, it’s going to turn out like this.

“My goodness, I thought your bad habit from before had come out and you were chasing ladies’ rears again … *haa*, but it was this disease that has relapsed instead.”

“N, no, Grandmother is, you’re mistaken. L, look, I was thinking I’d buy a lot of that soup you like, ouch-!”

The cane was swung down on top of the head of the Grandfather making excuses. It’s fine, even though she hit him with a merciless force, it’s probably ok.

“Even if your head splits, I can heal it so there’s no need to worry.”

Oh yeah, the old woman can use the Divine Gift, <Healing Light>, can’t she? Then I don’t have to worry … I don’t have to worry, right?

“My goodness, there’s no way you’ve forgotten what day today is.”

“I know. I know … but let me do it one last time.”

“GR, AN, D, FA, TH, ER.”

Grandmother gave her cane a twist and a pull, and from inside you could see a dull glittering of light from a blade. E, you mean that’s a sword cane-? Against Grandmother, who readied the katana that had appeared from the cane with a gentle smile, Grandfather’s back has gone completely rigid.

“Th, the meet up! Grandmother’s arm has been equipped to be quite fashionable. I get it, I was wrong.”

“So you understand, *nee*. If that’s the case, then let’s go.”

With many sorrowful side-glances in my direction, Grandfather left with Grandmother pulling him along. Usually there’s the feeling that Grandmother accommodates Grandfather, but in actuality he was charmed by Grandmother’s butt, huh?

Today, Grandfather seems to have gotten even more aggravated than usual at the slots. With how Grandmother was speaking, it looks like there’s some important errand, but because he doesn’t want to go, it seems he was trying to escape reality.
If I was capable of holding a conversation, I could have become someone that could have listened to even one of his complaints, but a vending machine is something that can’t do anything but sell things.

Though I’m also interested about Grandmother, like always I provide people

with products, and before I realize it, the town is dyed red. Sunset, huh … even though this is the inside of a Dungeon, like it's natural, the sun rises and the sun sets. And it does it without looking unnatural at all; it probably means that I've grown used to the other world, too.
Today it looks like Ramis is busy, so it's one-day abandonment play in the vicinity of the Hunter Association.

Talk that recently the restaurants and food carts, provoked by the vending machine's food products, have raised the level of their food's taste is something that I've been hearing often. Since I think it's great that the community is livening up like that, from evening and through the night, I don't put up food related products.

The time the otherworld people retire for bed seems to be early, so even if they open late, all the stores are closed by 22:00, so from thereon after I place hot cup ramen and canned oden, as well as the recently acquired canned curry udon.

There's a mode where you can provide the ability to heat up frozen products, but if I do that, half of the vending machine would be occupied with this function, and I wouldn't know whether to whether to do beverage mode or do cup ramen in the other half.

"Grandpa, Grandpa. Are you hungry? That rectangular thing, it's the box where lots of food comes out of, *ne*. May isn't hungry, but I wonder if it's tasty."

I hear the voice of a very young girl. That's a really round about way to ask for something. The way she insists she doesn't want to eat at all is pretty cute. She seems to be somewhat of a precocious child.

"Oh, is that so? Then, let me buy you something. What does May want to eat, *jya*?"

N, right now that was voice of the old man regular, wasn't it? Like this morning's unpleasant mood was a lie, his whole face lit up with a smile and he's holding the girl's hand. Next to them is the old woman and an adult-looking woman with three braids that looks like she's in her twenties.

"I'm glad I decided to come … I'm sorry for being a daughter who neglects her parents."

“For a parent, the greatest disrespect is for you to die before them, you know? *Maa*, you were able to get this old because you were a capable child, though I think we spoiled you too much, *nee*. “

They’re having a heavy conversation. I know that listening in as a kind of third-party is rude, but I don’t have any way to cover my ears so please pardon me.

That woman is their daughter, then. By their appearance, the old couple looks to be in the late half of their sixties, but with the daughter actually being in her thirties, it’s not really that weird of an age difference.

“This person was reluctant to the bitter end. Even though he actually wanted to meet you he went back to his bad habits; truly, he is a person who can’t be frank.”

“It’s because he was prepared to disown me for eloping, so it’s obvious *ne*. And it was even to someone he didn’t like. And then, when I was tossed aside I shamelessly came back.”

“It’s not that. That person was worried about you, *nanyo*. Whatever you say, here is the inside of a Dungeon where monsters run rampant. And recently there have been monster attacks all over the place, and the defenses are lax. During this time, you one-sidedly sent a letter saying you were coming; he was a-lways worrying about you.”

“That, is that so?”

“That’s right. I mean, when you ran from here, he began gambling even though he had stopped for so long.”

Is what the old woman said, meanwhile the old man and his granddaughter were staring at my front in order to choose the products.

Aa, so this is why the old man has recently been constantly spinning the slots, trying to find a sure way to win. In order to prepare for today, out of desperation he was hoping to pull a win because of that rumor about the all-day good luck.

“Grandpa, these numbers, whaaat are they?”

“Aa, this, huh? When you buy something, this here will spin, and if the three numbers match you win, and you get to choose one more *jyayo*. And you know,

they say that if you win here, you'll be happy all day."

"E-, is that so! May wants to try it out! I'm sure I'll win!"

Raising her hand, the girl *pyon pyon* bounced. The old man's eyes narrowed; watching his blindingly cute[2] granddaughter, his face became loose with a smile. It's the first time I've seen him make such a gentle face.

"Then, let's give it a go. Gramps will put the coins in here, and you push the button of what you want *ee*. By the way, Gramps' recommendation is water *jyayo*."

"Un, let's try it!"

It looks like the girl can reach the lowest row, so let's switch orange juice in there.

By standing on her tiptoes with all her might, the girl touched the orange juice button. While the juice came out of my opening, the slot's numbers began to move.

"It's 7 and 7! After I just need one more, *ne*!"

"If it's 7s, you won't win. All this time, it's never come for me either."[3]

"Se-ven, se-ven, se-ven, se-ven …. 7 came! I wooooooon-!"

"Wh, what in the-!"

The fanfare sound rang and the red and blue lights that represented hot and could flashed alternately. The girl bounces in happiness while the old man stands there, dazed.

He probably can't believe the scene before his eyes. Even though up until now he had to sink money in like crazy in order to get a win, his granddaughter pulled a win out of her first try, after all.

"May, hurry and choose, the time you get to choose the extra is almost over, *zo*."

"Then, this one!"

What the girl chose was the mineral water lined up next to the orange juice.

“Ok, this one is Grandpa’s!”

“So you’ll give it to me, thank you. It’s just, finally getting the all-day happiness effect now, when the day is almost over *jya*. It’s kind of a waste.”

“E, why? Today, May met Grandpa and Grandma, I’ve been happy all day! That’s why, it’s not a waste at all!”

When those words came, the old man turned towards the sunset and looked up at the clouds. Though, with my height the old man’s face was exposed, and near his eyes there was a glittering drop.

Grandfather and Grandmother, as well as Ms Daughter and Granddaughter. The four were lined up and walking away, and their shadows stretched out longer and longer on the ground. Those shadows looked like they were swaying, intertwined, in happiness, and then they disappeared into the distance. Whether May-chan’s win was a coincidence or not, trying to figure that out is meaningless, huh?

---

1. atari detara mou ippon – literally, “A success has come out, so another bottle.” Since he may/may not be using his voice functions to make new words, instead of letting it be a pain in the butt later on, I’ll have the romanji below Mr Vending Machine’s words when he uses a new phrase, as well as when he starts mishmashing them.
2. “cute” wasn’t actually in it, but it was the easiest way to make the meaning clear in English. She’s so cute/pure/innocent that she blinds him.
3. literally he just says, “if it’s like that you won’t win”, but it’s suggested indirectly that it’s because she got 7s. Since that’s less obvious in English (whether she won’t win because the last number won’t come or if it’s because it’s 7s), I just wrote it in.

<T/n: Thank you LYNKZ and ROBERT for your donations! (and no I don’t have a patreon atm)
I wasn’t sure how to best translate “atari tsuki” as the new function, which I thought all around the block until my head spun, but decided to go with the

term most used by English-speaking vending machine enthusiasts to describe the function, which is “lottery.” Other candidates were “roulette,” “slot machine”(but then the author uses ‘slots’ with a different term so that was scrapped) or “You have won.” (The literal is “you have acquired a success”)>

Abduction

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Abduction

A, greetings, vending machine here. Currently, I am in the middle of an acclaimed transport.

I've been placed in the middle of a swaying luggage rack of a wild boar transport cart; *maa*, it's fine, but the problem I have with this is, where and what circumstance am I talking from?

Since there's no canopy on top of the luggage rack, I can see the surrounding scenery well. Sometimes, from among the tall wild grass that springs up from the prairie, creatures that seem like deer with three horns will show their faces.

As for what else I can see, there are two men sitting in the driver's seat. Their ages are probably around the forties. Their faces are the types that don't leave any particular impression.

And, behind this transport there's one more wild boar transport cart following us. In that luggage rack there is a gang of 6 people that look Hunter-like. The colleagues of the ones who gave me troubles by placing me in this transport, probably.
Seri-ously, it's a bit late, but I should have been a little more suspicious.
Early in the morning they came; those guys lined up in a row in front of me, and began to talk to me.

"The President from the Hunter Association has made a request; the repair and reinforcement of the area around the wall has begun in earnest today. He wishes that Hakkon-san would sell things there for the time being."

Right at that time I was calculating my ability Points, and was just agonizing over what I should stock next and immediately replied "Welcome," being lost in the sea of my thoughts.

Up until now the bear President would come directly to ask or Ramis would come to ask in exchange; there had only been those two, but I figured that it's possible that these people were just sent to let me know.

And then, again without my suspicion, the six men placed me on the transport. Here too I made another big mistake. After being put on the cart, the sunlight shining in on me from the window feels good; it's a situation where you get sleepy, *ne*. Even though I'm fine even if I don't sleep, because of my habits from my human era, I sometimes get sleepy.
With the transport swaying and the sound of the wheels clattering on the ground in place of a lullaby, my consciousness faded.

So, that's what the current situation is. This is, I'm probably being kidnapped *na*. I'm guessing their aim is the gold coins that were tucked inside me, or maybe they wanted me myself for their benefit.

There's absolutely no feeling that my life is at all in crisis, it's just that not being able to move with my own power is the number one most troublesome matter. Even if I manage to escape from these guys somehow, I don't have any way to get back to the community. This level is pretty big, so if I'm abandoned on the way, there's a good chance that no one will realize it for several years. *Maa*, I'll probably run out of points before that, though.

For now, let's use a measure of crime prevention that I acquired before, the vending machine security camera, to record the faces of the criminals. Recording them like this, I will always be able to playback their images inside my head, and there's no way I'll forget their faces.

At least two of them have faces I've seen before, *na*. They're customers who have been buying things frequently, recently, but I remember that they looked at the products with more zeal than other people.

Other than that … n, aa, that guy's here too, huh? The bit-villain Gugoil is smirking and looking my way, laughing. As always, he has his small-fry act perfectly down.
<t/n: formerly Gugoiru, the guy who continuously tries to rob our MC>

It was this guy's plan to team up with a group with nasty habits; maybe they were originally former comrades. If that's the case, then I guess they're going to

drop me off somewhere and dismantle me. I'm pretty sure that Gugoil shouldn't know about my <Barrier>. I think other than Ramis and Leader Keryoil, no one else has seen it.

If that's the case, then let's make <Barrier> my trump card. That being said, at this rate the distance from the community is getting further away, and the probability of them finding me is getting smaller; wh, what should I do? I'm panicking a little.
O, ok, let's check over my abilities again to calm down.

《
Vending Machine Hakkon
Endurance: 100/100
Defense: 10
Strength: 0
Agility: 0
Dexterity: 0
Magic Power: 0

PT 11346

<Functions>
Refrigeration, Heat Insulation, Omni-Directional Sight, Hot Water Dispenser (Cup Ramen Support Mode), 2 Liter Support, Rod-Shaped Candy Vending, Coating Change, Box-Shaped Product Support, Vending Machine Security Camera

<Divine Blessing>
Barrier
》

As a vending machine I can brag that I'm highly efficient, but they aren't abilities that will help me flourish in another world, *na*.

I have an excessive, over ten thousand Points, but now that this situation has come about, even if it's the worst, with just this many points I can maintain <Barrier> for a long time, so let's think of it as a blessing in disguise. It can also support repairs as many times as I need.

Calm down, calm down. I won't be turned into scrap so soon. Since it seems like <Barrier> exhausts 1 Point for one second, then one minute would be 60.

Then one hour will need 3600, won't it … this, this is bad …
Even though I was so happy about being able to do anything with my ten thousand Points, the power of past me's able-to-do-anything mood has dropped.

While I was thinking about these things, the distance from the community has been steadily growing farther and farther away; it seems like it's been about two hours since I've woken up.

"O-i, let's take a break."

The man in this transport's driver's seat turned around and yelled; the wild boar transport cart stopped.

From the wild boar transport cart that had been following behind as well, they disembarked in groups. And, these guys crowded around me; they can't be thinking that I'll obediently put out some food.

"Then, let's eat lunch. Oi, Hakkon. If you've got a conscious, you get this situation, right?"

Since his comrades are around, the bit-villain is getting carried away. Probably remembering that time's humiliation, he's laughing brainlessly while flashing a blade.

"Put out the food and drinks we want, for free. Even if you're an iron box, you understand what will happen if you refuse."

"Too bad."

I replied immediately. I don't have to tell you the result that provoking him here will lead to.
Not betraying expectations, blood rushes to Gugoil's face in an instant; he becomes red. This guy really doesn't understand the word "patience".

"You bastard, I'm going to break you!"

He plunges a dagger at the glass, but it's at the degree of being a light scratch on the surface.

《1 damage. Endurance has been reduced by 1.》

It's just 1 damage, even poorer than I expected. Damage from the Frog-men

hurt more. No matter how many times I was wounded, the total damage didn't reduce more than 5.

"Gugoil, cut it out. Sure we're also aiming for this guy's contents, but I told you, he himself probably has worth as product. You're scratching it up pointlessly."

"Y, yessir. Sorry … ke-, you escaped with your life."

A perfectly typical parting shot. The dude who stopped him has a body that is, compared to the others surrounding him, one size larger. He's similar to that person called Goggai, who was together with the money-exchanger woman, but only in physique.

There's a huge knife scar on his forehead that emphasizes his evil looks *na*. He has no eyebrows or hair on his head; is it shaved or is it natural? If it wasn't for his splendid moustache, he'd probably resemble the gatekeeper, Karios, quite well.

"You too, you probably don't want to be broken. In that case, I think it'd be wiser to obey us here."

This big man seems reasonable, more so than Gugoil. Certainly nothing good will come out of defying them here. Here I should pretend to obediently listen; analyzing the situation makes this seem like the best choice.

"Your head Is Too bad."
("Ata Ma Zannen"(lit: Hea d Too bad)) [1]

Yeah right. Like I'll listen to the gang that looks to be abducting me. If Ramis were here I'd absolutely refuse. In other words, if I want to stay with her from now on, I can't live my life with any shame.

"Seems like you don't get your situation. Oi, Gugoil. I heard that this guy can repair breakages himself."

"Ya, that's true. Even though he should have been pretty dented from the subjugation expedition, he completely went back to his clean state."

"I see, then you guys, let him have it just to the point where he won't break."

If I had a sense of pain, this is a situation that would make me remember fear,

but threatening a vending machine by surrounding him with a bunch of burly guys … what a high-level gag.

Even though they don't even get it, they're going to recklessly wound me to get me to listen to them; what a simple way of thing. I guess they aren't aware that it's really stupid since their opponent is a metal box.

"If you're going to apologize you better do it now. Unless the Boss forgives you, you won't get any mercy so you'd better prepare yourself."

The Boss, huh. So that's the Top and these guys are all the minions. Well, *maa*, now that I've calmly acquired this information I have a clear understanding of the situation, though I don't have any way of conveying that.

《3 damage. Endurance has reduced by 3.》

《2 damage. Endurance has been reduced by 2.》

They're really coming at me and hitting me mercilessly with weapons. If it continues like this, even if they're not really doing me in, eventually I'll be destroyed. But I'd like to keep <Barrier> hidden until the last minute. If I repair now, they'll probably get worked up and the attacks will increase. What should I do; I think the right answer would be to make my opponents hurry and leave me alone before they're on the verge of breaking me, but … that is, their mood shows no signs of calming down.

I don't have enough Points for Divine Blessings. And there aren't any useful functions. I wonder if there isn't anything else I can do. My Endurance continues to fall; I have no way of fighting back. Even though, if I had just a little more Defense, I bet I would come out unhurt.

《Would you like to spend 1000 Points to increase Defense by 10?》

E-, while looking at the Defense line, words came floating up. E, you can even use Points to enhance Status!?

1000 Points to raise Defense definitely hurts, but it can reduce the damage I'm currently receiving. There's worth in doing so. Then, let's try raising it.

《Defense has become 20.》

I can't really tell but I probably got harder. Whether that's true or not, from

now on I'll understand even if I don't want to.

《0 damage. Endurance has been reduced by 0.》

Alright, the damage has become nothing. Like this, with the reduction of my Endurance in this situation, I can leave it and those guys will probably mistakenly think what they're doing is effective, since I left behind all the damage until now. I guess I'll just watch until my opponents wear themselves out.

---

1. "Ata ma zannen"(lit: Hea d Too bad)
   From "Atari ga detara mou ippon" (Congratulations. You have won another bottle (lit: A win has come out so another one)), "Mata no gori you o omachishite imasu." (Please come again (lit: We await the next time you come)), "Zannen" (Too bad, what a shame, etc)
   While he could be calling the guy stupid, I think it's more likely that our MC is trying to call him "baldy", a common insult for older men in Japan even if the guy isn't bald. And calling him "baldy" just seems to suit our MC's sense of humor better than cleverly calling him dumb. But well, that's my interpretation.

<t/n: Thank you RS, TD, and GB for your donations!
In this installment of the sassy-pants vending machine's slice-of-life, the action begins to pick up!
Sorry, this is actually a day later than I had planned, because I was super stressed out, couldn't concentrate worth a dime, and decided to get drunk and spend a whole day genocid-ing mobs on an mmo. No quests or anything, just straight up massacre lol. Man, I can't wait until all of this rl stuff blows over … 1 more week… just 1 more week…if everything goes well…>

Abductors

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Abductors

With the guys breathing hard while they continue to beat me, I check my Status.
If Defense could be raised, then there's the possibility that other abilities can be raised. First is, Endurance.

《Would you like to spend 1000 Points to increase Endurance by 10?》

So Endurance can be raised. But the ratio of consumed Points to increase is low, *na*. If Endurance increases by at least 100 then I'd raise it without hesitation, though. I wonder how the others are.

《Would you like to spend 10,000 Points to increase Strength by 10?》
《Would you like to spend 10,000 Points to increase Agility by 10?》
《Would you like to spend 10,000 Points to increase Dexterity by 10?》

You mean it's only 1 order of magnitude more … Strength, Agility, and Dexterity are stats that vending machines don't need, so I don't have any plans to raise them, but it's pointlessly high, *na*?

Just maybe, if I raised Strength or Agility, if I shake the vending machine from side to side I might be able to walk. If it's possible, it would be pretty amusing, though.
No matter what I can't get Magic Power to go up. It looks like I can't be the explosive magic vending machine. Too bad.

"You guys, about that much is enough."

"'kay."

A, it ended. Since my Endurance had reduced by about 30 before I increased Defense, I look pretty terrible.

“Oi, this guy ain’t repairing *zo*.”

“Th,that can’t be. He definitely fixed himself before. Right before my eyes! O, oi, you bastard, hurry up and heal those wounds!”

Nope. I’m going to continue pretending to be out-of-order like this. I don’t even feel a bit like providing these guys with drinks … A, no, I changed my mind; let’s give them some drinks.

“Gugoil, if this is broken, you know what will happen, *na*.”

“R,right-! O,oi, you box bastard, hurry up and heal those wounds! I bet you’re just pretending not to be able to move, right?”

Oh, he’s panicking, he’s panicking. *Maa*, I’m leaving the wounds as is, but I’ll send out a drink so calm down.

“B,boss! A product came falling down! S,see, it’s not broken!”

Enough for everyone, those guys gleefully gather the fallen beverages. Be grateful to my kindness *dazo*.

“*Maa*, I guess it’s fine. For now, give me one, I don’t care what.”

The drinks were distributed to all members. They opened the caps almost simultaneously; the guys who had worked up a sweat assaulting me swigged it all at once.

“*Buuuuuuuu*-!”

“*Hack, cough*, wha,what the!?”

“Shit, are you freaking serious!”

How’d you like the taste of my careful selection of the worst 10 juices? Whenever a vending machine had a new product lined up I would go buy it without hesitation; if there were great hits that I got, of course there was also great misses too.

It makes me wonder if the manager in charge has no sense of taste, that beverages so unbelievably bad would be good enough to sell. On the light side,

they mixed all the vegetables that taste good with mayonnaise and add carbonation, and there's also adding all the strong-smelling Japanese toppings with carbonation … both of these have to be from the same manufacturer, I bet. There are quite a few other ones that deviate from the norm; I have yet to see the bottom of the depth of the beverage manufacturer industry.

"This guy, are you sure he isn't broken?"

"*Maa*, whatever. I'll figure out what to do when we get back to the hideout. If by chance he's completely broken, Gugoil. Don't think we'll let you off with an apology."

"Y, yessir."

With the Boss threatening him, his face is pale and it's like he'll collapse any minute. I don't have a bit of sympathy for him, so I don't really care, though. In the first place, it's because of this guy giving them this idea that it's turned out like this.

If I keep this up they'll think I really did break, and because of that they'll treat me super carefully. It's great that stage one has been completed, but in the end, nothing actually changed for the better.

When we reach the hideout, I wonder what I should do there. When it comes down to it, I can't think of a plan at all. I guess I can't do anything else but wing it. If it gets really bad, I'll resist with Barrier.

From then, without selling anyone either products or a fight, we reached our destination in about two hours.

We proceeded through the forest on an animal trail that was a little better than the gravel path; in this place with an abundance of nature, an unnatural structure was there. It was a huge hole in a wall; when we reached it, it turned out to be a rusting fortress on the brink of collapsing. Compared to the Hunter Association it's on a smaller scale, but it was probably originally quite the sturdy fort.
Looks like quite a few years have passed since it was abandoned; it looks like a fun spot if you want to explore ruined buildings, with ivy entangled everywhere.

"Boys, bring that inside. There, have that check him out."

“Got it, but I can’t see that listening to what we say.”

“If it comes to that, I’ll just have your head separated from your body.”

“*Hii*- U,understood!”

Let’s downgrade the bit-villain to lower-grunt. But anyway, I wonder who the “that” they’re referring to is. It doesn’t seem like he’s a comrade they hold much trust in, though.

Laying the vending machine me down, it’s going to take six people to carry me, like I thought. The heavy-weight me who takes six people to somehow carry can be lightly carried by Ramis; she’s really beyond normal, *na*.

The side double doors have hinges that look like they’ll give out when hit with a heavy shock; when we intruded into the dilapidated fort, the inside was tidier than I thought it would be. The hall-like place was furnished with a full-length, handmade-feeling long table and a number of chair settings.

The large sofa along the wall is old, but seems of good quality. So they clean the floor diligently; there also isn’t any dust accumulated anywhere. He has a face like a heinous octopus, and yet he likes things kept nice and clean.

Just when I think we’re going to continue and go up the stairs at the end of the hall, looks like we’re heading towards the iron door in the right corner. When they opened the creaking door, right there are gloomy stairs leading downwards.

Like they were carrying a portable shrine, we descend the stairs and then head to the back; there were two men dressed in metal armor looking like they were keeping guard, watching the front of a door shut with a bolt. It’s a situation like they have some heinous prisoner shut up under surveillance.

“Is that behaving?”

“As long as there are magic tools, that suddenly becomes obedient, making clattering noises.”

“What an easy to understand woman. *Maa*, if we give her this, she won’t get violent either, I bet.”

I’m eavesdropping on the bad guys’ conversation, but I’m understanding less and less of the person up ahead.

As he pulls the bolt and opens the door, he remains vigilant and readies the spear in his hand. I wonder if there's some wild beast that likes magic tools in there.

"Oi, we brought back one of those toys you like so much. Figure this broken thing out and turn it back to its original self."

"*Aan-?!* You bastard, who the hell asked for your smart-ass mouth? You lower than shit bastards don't get to order humans around-!"

The threatening voice you could hear filled the entire room. When he heard those words, the lower-grunt was depressed; being unable to come up with even one comeback, he averted his eyes and had me placed in a corner of the room.

"H,here is this guys' documents. Take a good look."

"*Ha-*, didn't your mama ever tell you to look people in the eye when talking to them? Or is it, you so scared, of this weak little girl *yoooo*-?"

A woman with a powerful delinquent[1] tone is staring intently. Though this person is a woman, her height is pretty much the same as mine, just a little shorter, about.

She has long hair the color of milk tea bundled in the back, but it looks like it's only tied back to get it out of the way, so there's a bunch of strands of hair sticking up.

Her slanted eyes are narrowed, glaring at the surprised me. From her thin, pink lips she spat out a "Cheh-!", and even now it seems like she'll spit on the floor.

I think it was white at one point, but she's wearing clothes that have become mottled with brown and black all over. Above it she's wearing what I thought was a black coat, but if I look closer, that's a lab coat dyed black, isn't it? The front is left open, and thanks to the clothes that cling to her body, I can tell her body type.
I unintentionally looked at her chest about twice; there's nothing there. There's basically no bulge.
She's one of those, tall with a grim face and small breasts. The exact opposite of Ramis.

"*A-n-!* Those guys left it and ran away. Only in running away are they first class.

And? What's this? They said something about some documents."

Picking up the stack of papers left on the ground like it's a pain, she gave it a look. Looks like this bad-mouthed girl is one of those people it would be better not to get too involved with. Like this, it feels like it would be better to pretend that I'm a harmless lump of iron.

"Hey, that true? You a magic tool with a conscious?"

So the documents mentioned that, huh? If I continue to play dumb, it feels kind of pointless-ish. She has a bad mouth on her, but she seems to be on bad terms with those guys, and they say that the enemy of your enemy is your ally. *N*-, I'm troubled as to how to respond.

"*A*-, don't tell me, you on guard thinking I'm one of those guys' friends? I'm a victim of being kidnapped and held here by those guys. No matter how ya see me, I'm a somewhat famous magic engineer *na*. Looks like I was brought to investigate you, mister."

If what she says is true, then it's my fault this woman fell into these circumstances. If I continue pretending to be just a normal vending machine, then it would be way too cowardly.

"Welcome."

"*O*-, it seriously talks! *Uooo* -, for a magic tool to understand words and respond, it's the first time I met one. Getting captured isn't all just bad things, *na*."

Her narrow eyes opened wide; the listless mood she had up until a moment ago disappeared, and breathing roughly she drew close to me and looked me over from corner to corner.

"Can I ask ya some questions?"

"Welcome."

"That mean's "yes" according to the documents, *na*. Then, I wanna ask … whoa, my bad. First should be names, huh? My name is Hyurumi."

E-, I think I've heard that name before. Don't tell me, in a place like this we're meeting, even before meeting Ramis. This girl is the one Ramis was trying to get

me to meet, her friend, the magic tool engineer, Hyurumi.

---

1. yankee – the punk kid delinquents of Japan

<t/n: Hyurumi is an “ore”-ko, aka, refers to herself with the very masculine pronoun, “ore.” Strangely enough, I didn’t take many liberties with her speech. She seriously speaks like that. Though, her slightly bad grammar is on purpose. I did change the punctuation after her “Aan-“s, since I wanted to differentiate between the Japanese thug “Aan-?!” and the hentai “Aan~”
I love Hyurumi.
I’m starting to ease into translating Vending Machine. The MC isn’t just a sassy-pants vending machine, he’s also trolling now … well, the author puts a lot of “character” into his characters, so it’s getting to be a little more fun.>

Magic Tool Engineer Hyurumi

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Magic Tool Engineer Hyurumi

“Though I roughly got it from the documents, is it true that you can use ‘Welcome’ and ‘Too Bad’ to communicate your intentions?”

“Welcome.”

“I see. Something like a magic tool that’s got the same intelligence as a human, this isn’t something I heard of until now. But something like weapons that understand human speech actually ain’t that rare, did you know?”

“Too bad.”

When she’s explaining things like this, her tone softens with an intelligent feel.

“There’s a lot left in books, *daze,* about those. It looks like there are also things that can be called intelligent weapons. But other than the specific user, nobody else can hear those types of weapons’ voices, and from the surroundings it seems like it was understood as nonsensical mutterings to a delusion, *na*. And then, the manufacturers of intelligent weapons are unknown, so with circumstances like that, that’s one of the main reasons it doesn’t have any credibility.”

Come to think of it, I’ve had some sort of experience with weapons with those settings in games and novels. So that means this other world also has arms like that.

“See, I’m also a leftover of a magic tool engineer. To see whether magic tools had intelligence, I tried many experiments, but …my conclusion is that it’s impossible to follow-up with that answer with my current technological strength. Then I tried changing my way of thinking. Instead of a human-made

artificial intelligence, it could be that those things have human souls dwelling in them, see?”

What! She derived that answer all by herself, this person. If it’s this woman, then she might realize my true identity too. While keeping these expectations to myself, let’s concentrate on the conversation.

“To seal a soul, since a long time ago it’s been done with magic and Divine Blessings. Fundamentally, it’s a situation where you temporarily put a dead person’s soul in a body; like, controlling the dead by using controlling forbidden arts on the dead body in order temporarily put the soul in something or other. *N-*, *aa-*, sorry, I need some water …”

She’s going to fill a cup from a cheap, rusty water vessel. Even if you don’t do that, I’ll treat you, *yo*. I wonder what I should choose; let’s go with the hot milk tea the same color as her hair. Since we’re in a basement it’s a little chilly, so I think something warm will be good.

“*N*, there was a noise. This, is this one of your products? Is it ok for me to take?”

“Welcome.”

“I see, ‘scuse me. Then I won’t hold back … *n, kuhaaa*, my worn out brain loves that sugar. And this warmth is just perfect. You did good.”

O, with her expression loosening, her image completely changes. It’s like the innocent smile of a pure girl.

“It’s super comforting, thank you. Now then, it’s written that your name is Hakkon, but is that right?”

“Welcome.”

“Then, Hakkon. Could it be that you’re a human soul dwelling in this magic tool?”

So the day that question gets asked to me has come, then. Honestly speaking, even though I thought that I was lucky enough that Ramis, a person who could convey my thoughts, appeared in my situation of being unable to talk, even a person who has realized my situation has come.

“Welcome.”

With great feeling, I replied at a loud volume.

“It really is like that! I ain’t lost my hypothesizing abilities yet! *O*-, I see, I see. Nice to meet ya, Hakkon.”

“Thank you very much.”

I’m seriously happy. Though it’s a weird fate that the person who realized this is Ramis’ friend, it’s because all the people that girl’s close with are good people *na*. Even if I think it’s a coincidence, if it’s the result of that girl’s charm that pulls people to her, then this was most likely inevitable.

“Right now I’m gonna to start brainstorming conjectures from the information in the documents, so when I’m wrong, definitely say so. Hakkon is a magic tool with a master.”

“Too bad.”

There’s no owner for the vending machine. If you had to pick someone it’d be God, I guess.

“*O*-, there ain’t any. Theen, do you have memories from when you was human?

“Welcome.”

“So it’s like that. *Hee*, I see. Then, the most important question. Since you don’t have to restock your products at all, it’s not like you can run out of stuff inside of you. I think there’s most likely a storage vault in a different space where you, using space magic and abilities together, pull things out from there; how about it?”

In some ways she’s right, but it doesn’t feel like it’s the correct answer. I don’t have a clue about how I work myself.

“Welcome Too bad.”

“So that means I’m not completely wrong, huh? That said, the products need some amount of money to come out. If you don’t have a master, there’s no use for you, who’s just magic tool, to just collect and hoard money. If your goal was just to sell products, then it would be better if your prices were lower. Instead,

you decided to set the prices kind of high anyway. That means, money does something super important for Hakkon."

"Welcome Welcome."

Hyurumi is amazing. Ramis has a great personality and the intuition to guess correctly, but this girl can come up with the right answer from barely any information.

"Looks like I hit the mark. I don't know how it's done, but with the money you get, you buy products; how's that?"

"Welcome."

"In other words, you need a lot of money to buy products."

"Too bad."

If I was just selling products then I can take the prices down to 1/10 of the original, but I need points for other functions and Divine Blessings, and life support too.

"So that's wrong. Then, it's not necessary to set it so high just to hoard money … so that means there are other ways to use the money."

"Welcome."

It looks like it would be faster to show her. The easiest one to understand would be a form change; I change into that Candy Vending Mode's frame.

"*Oooo-*, what the!? Light is … oi, oi, you completely changed, *na.*"

After becoming the Cylindrical Candy Vending Mode, Hyurumi began to *tap tap* touch the body. If I had a sense of touch, this would have been awkward.

"This clear part is like glass, but it looks like that's not it; I'm super curious, *ze*. Looks like here you put coins in to make what's inside come out. Because you can see what kind of products there are, your willingness to buy is increased… super awesome!"

What precise comments. Completely different from how the other other-world people see me.

"-Oops, my bad. I got too excited and went off on a tangent. In other words,

Hakkon has an ability where the money saves up can be used like this to change your body … no, wait, some kind of function that can make these changes.”

“Welcome.”

Since she was able to fish out the right answer, I drop a candy. Go ahead and eat it later.

“O, I’ll take it gratefully.”

Making sure she had picked it up, I turned back into the usual vending machine. It’s not like I don’t like the Candy Vending Mode, but somehow I can’t settle down into it.

“Other than that, the things I want to know are … other than changing your body and changing products, are there other things you can do, too?”

“Welcome.”

Since there’s the Divine Blessing’s <Barrier>, *na*. If it’s this girl who’s Ramis’ close friend, then it should be okay to show her.

“*Hee-*, so that means you still got secrets. It possible for you to show me those?”

“Welcome.”

“I’m so looking forward to this. Then, go ahead.”

I don’t mind, but you’re a bit close, *na*. If I use Barrier with her here, I’ll send her flying. If she’d take a bit of distance, it’d be better. Step back~ step back~, for now I’ll just try and see if I can transfer my thoughts.

“*N?* You not gonna show me? A, my bad, is it kind of dangerous? I’ll step back a bit … how about here?”

“Welcome.”

This isn’t in anyway my feelings being delivered, Hyurumi is just really good at guessing.

She’s taken enough distance, so it should be fine. There’s a small table nearby but there’s nothing on it, so even if I send it flying there shouldn’t be any problems.

Now then, <Barrier>.
Blue light sprang forth all around me. In the places about 1 meter away from me, a blue, translucent wall manifested, surrounding me.

"*O-*, what is this? The table near you was sent flying like it was being expelled. In other words, it's something like a barricade. Is it ok if I touch it?"

"Welcome."

It's basically just a terribly hard wall, so there aren't any problems just touching it.

Cautiously poking it with her finger, checking how it feels when hit with the palm of her hand, sending droplets of water flying at it from a finger dipped in the cup of water, she curiously investigated how the Barrier repelled things.

"It feels like a sturdy wall, *na*. Looks like there's also quite a bit of strength."

Watching her figure *smack smack* touching the wall, my mischievous side ignited. Just a bit; let's try and give her a scare.
Let's give Hyurumi permission to enter the Barrier.

"To what degree of shock can it withstand? To test it ––*fue? Kyaaa-!*"

Because she was in the middle of pushing with both hands, this girl's hands tore through the Barrier with quite a bit of force, running into my body. With the momentum, she ended up in the form of leaning against my body with hers.

If I was a flesh and blood human, then this would probably be something like a lucky event, but only a weirdo would make it his objective to see the form a young woman flying into the chest of vending machine.

"Wh, what is this? My body entered and went through the blue wall. There's no way this is because it was released; was it set so I have permission so only I can enter? A wall you can choose to set permissions on who can freely enter and exit. I think I've heard about this somewhere … *a-*, where was it, I think it was the Empire's … *O-*, I know! Barrier, it's Barrier! It's got to be an ability like one of the Divine Blessings!"

"Welcome."

But man, she's frighteningly knowledgeable, that Hyurumi. I completely

understand the reason why Ramis was so eager to meet up with her.

“Hakkon’s awesome. You can handle a wide variety of products, and have the possibility of changing your body and functions. And then, even being able to handle a Divine Blessing, it’s like, you’re transcending the level of a magic tool.”

I’m happy to receive the praise, but this wasn’t with my own strength at all. I just got the excellent body of a vending machine. What is truly praiseworthy is this girl’s amount of knowledge. Because it’s something that she got with her own strength.
And then, I continued answering every and all questions until the dead of the night, when she was fully satisfied.

Her intellectual curiosity sated, the satisfied girl’s hand gripped a nutrition drink. Because she looked like she would collapse from over-excitement, I added a product that would combat that.

To top it off, since it’s a pretty expensive product the effect was immediate, and she became energetic as soon as she drank it. The effects of the expensive nutrition drinks seriously show up fast. Because the nutritional value is high, when I had a cold, this really helped a lot.

Even so, when she was sleepy and hitting her limit, she sprawled out face up on a long table in a spot a little bit away from me, put a worn out rag over her head, and quickly fell asleep. She’s kind of like a guy.

Exposing such a defenseless figure in the middle of a criminal gang of ruffians is dangerous. Is it heroic, or what should I say about it? I guess tonight I’ll be the night watchman.

<t/n: … Um … I wanted to know what happened, so … I’ll get to work on OVRMMO tomorrow.
There was an author note stating there would be another one in the evening, but it’s impossible for the translator to follow that trend, so I didn’t include it.>

The Way to Satisfy Desire

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

The Way to Satisfy Desire

I’m not mistaken in thinking of Hyurumi as an ally. Her life, at least until she solves my mystery, seems to be assured; looks like I won’t have to worry about her being killed.

From what Ramis said, she’s a person with wanderlust, so even if her whereabouts are unknown no one would be worried; the chances that no one’s realized she’s missing is high. It would be best not to put hopes on someone looking for her and coming.

That said, when they notice I’m not there, I can only pray that the Bear President sends out a search party. Ramis will be beside herself with worry; it’s fine as long as she doesn’t go overboard and do something rash.

For the community’s reconstruction there’s also Ramis, but I think I contributed quite a lot too. If I’m not there, the community will lose one of its connections and the reconstruction work will be delayed… this kind of convenient interpretation of the situation probably isn’t the case.

While I’m thinking these things, in this room wrapped in the stillness of the night, *click,* a small sound echoed. As I focus my gaze in the direction of the sound, the doorknob turned and the door slowly opened. So they came after all.

“Oi, are we seriously gonna do this?”

“I bet it’s been building up for you too, but if you don’t like it, you can go back, *daze*.”

“Th, that’s not it, but you know, *naa*, that’s got no waist and is all lanky, and dirty all over; and she’s got no sexy parts at all.”

“As long as she has a hole I don’t care about all that.”

“And what are we going to do about Boss’ orders not to touch her?”

“No worries, just flash a knife and if you threaten her she won’t tell.”

They’re having a vulgar conversation in hushed voices. The number of guys is three, huh? The lower-grunt Gugoil isn’t participating. He had a terrible day; since the Boss threatened him, he’s probably ended up lying low.

I still have the option of making a ruckus by shouting “Welcome!” at my loudest sound setting, but since a basement with high sound-insulation is a standard in this kind of situation, honestly, I have doubts on its effectiveness. This place has the feeling of an improved prison.

And if I give them a scare, I’m worried that these guys will cause a mess and hurt Hyurumi in the chaos. There’s also the possibility of them going crazy and breaking me to death in order to keep me quiet.

If that’s the case, what should I do? Those guys are slowly approaching her, drawing close and appraising her; their gazes are creeping all over her entire body like they’re licking her all over.
I have no time to spare. I should try that.

“O,oi, hang on a sec. That magic-tool box is glowing, *zo*.”

Right before they touched her skin, one of the fellows smacked his comrade on the back with his eyes glued in my direction.

“E, wh,what the. The products are being swapped out … no, his shape is changing too.”

“Th, this guy is, awesome! There’s a really detailed naked woman drawing-. Over here’s a really seductive, erotic underwear get up. This body is way beyond ero.”

The three together are plastered to me, their gazes fixed on the magazines across the glass ––– the so-called porn-mags.

Recently they’ve declined since you can use the internet, the vending machines with porn-mags that is, but even now I know where they’re quietly residing.
Alright, and now’s the real deal. I send out 6 editions from my opening, dropping

my specially selected porn-mags.

“Oi, a product went and dropped *zo*-”

“For reals? Lemme take a look.”

“Me too me too-”

Kwahahaha, take that. Getting fired up when faced with Japan’s eros for the first isn’t uncommon at all. Especially with the ones a vending machine sells; since you can’t check the insides of that kind of book before you buy, the cover is major in how they lure in customers.
The pose and angle have all been calculated in. When other world people, with an undeveloped sexual culture, see this porn-mag, I wonder what will happen.

And then, selecting from among all the ones I’ve bought, I have full confidence that the contents of the books I handed over are magazines that will deliver. I also have a lot of the works that are the types with horrible content after being fooled-.

A, no. It’s because I’m a vending machine maniac, it’s not because I’m interested in this sort of thing; I really only bought them for part of my collection. By no means did I sneak out of the house in the middle of the night, checking that there was nobody around, just to buy them.

Recently, since there’s the internet, without any difficulty each person has the possibility of satisfying their sexual desires. I use it myself so I probably don’t have any right to nitpick, but just let me say it.

The worth of hard-earned eros is completely different from the things you can get with a single click!
For example, even if it’s that cheap thing where the contents are completely different from the cover, no matter how much your hopes were betrayed, that becomes something you’ll definitely reminisce over, because you live in the flesh!

… This too, previously, during the consultation with the sex-related business owner Shirley-san, was one of the ways I thought of as a disease counter-plan. *Maa*, in the end, I didn’t have this mode, though. I mean, it would have been something like having my own preferences spreading throughout the community, *na*.

“Uwa, how did they get such an accurate drawing? This is awesome, I can’t take it.”

“Wh, what’s with these huge boobs. E, you can do that?”

“No way, no way, no way.”

They’re being pulled into it on the same level as middle-schoolers whose sex-drives have just awakened. They’re absorbed in reading and have completely forgotten about Hyurumi’s existence.
Up to here, it’s gone just as planned. The problem is from here on.

“I, I’m not going to go through with the assault. I just remembered I have to do something.”

“Wh,what a coincidence. My stomach hurts too, so I’m out.”

“The,then, let’s go back.”

All of them are hunched forward for some reason and, both hands clutching one magazine each, they left the room like that. There was also the possibility of them getting excited and pouncing on Hyurumi, but in the end sexual curiosity won out.

Even at the risk of them assaulting her, satisfying their lust in this way was probably the better decision. The clothing designed to arouse that they had never seen before on the voluptuous women and the photos of them intertwined alone were enough to give them a shock, looks like.

I mean, the models for the magazines have strangely great bodies, and their faces are also beautiful. I shouldn’t let the kill-joy opinion about how the latest image-processing technology is amazing out of my mouth.

Whichever way it ended up going, at least their ferocity would have been dulled.

If it went down the bad path, with her being assaulted, I was going to somehow manage with making a loud fuss and Barrier, but it went well so it’s all good.

The door closed, and those guys’ forms are gone. Hyurumi is, not even knowing she was going to be assaulted, still fast asleep. If those guys will calm

down for a while with this, then it can end without meaningless conflict.

I can't run on my own power, and the things I can do are too few. No matter how I think about it, it's impossible for this girl to pick me up and carry me. If you're not Ramis it's not possible to lift me by yourself.
Now that she's not here, I understand how important she was to me. –*tte*, this totally sounds like I broke up with my lover.

In the end, the things I can do are buy time and hinder. I absolutely don't have enough points to get another Divine Blessing. That being said, the functions won't really be useful, but I'll go over them one more time.

Quite a bit of bit of time passed as I weighed the left over points, wondering what I should take, and Hyurumi woke up.

"*FWAAAAAAaa.* Haa, I slept so good. Yo, Hakkon."

While casually raking a hand through her disheveled hair, she faced me and raised a hand. When she awoke her clothes had gotten all disarranged, but forget about it being sexy, "sloppy" wins hands down.

She arched her back to stretch out her joints, but even though she thrust it out, there's no swelling at her chest. I don't think we'll get the punchline that she's actually a man. Though if we're just talking about how she talks and acts, she's totally a guy.

"Right, what's today? Though I want to investigate your functions more."

In the middle of her sentence her stomach made a large sound, and Hyurumi scratched her cheek with a finger.

"My bad. It's 'cause I didn't eat much, since I was watching out for weird things put in my food, I'm super hungry."

That so. Then, I will treat you to a meal. She's been rubbing her arms and legs for a while, so they must have gotten quite cold. Then, it should be cup ramen is what I'd like to say, but if her stomach's that empty then let's first go with the oden that you can eat right away.
First I'll drop the oden can, and when she takes it, then I'll provide the cup ramen.

“This is warm, *na*. A completely sealed container, huh … bend here and pull, *uoooo*-, I can’t handle this. What a tasty smell.”

With a g*obble gobble*, eating it all heartily, she finishes off the oden in an instant and drains the soup; now it looks like it’s time for the cup ramen. She was a bit confused on how to use the hot water, but somehow or other she got the hot water poured in and sat cross-legged on top the table, humming while she waited.

Repeatedly opening the lid a few times, poking the noodles to check their state, and then closing it again, she looked just like a kid. She also devoured the cup ramen quickly and, since she looked like she still hadn’t had enough, I gave her a new product, canned bread, to try out.

“This fluffy thing inside the can, it’s … bread-! So stuff like this exists too; you gonna totally bankrupt restaurants, *zo*. This is seriously good; ain’t it just soft?”

I can’t say her way of eating or her flattery is elegant, but just watching how she eats like it’s so delicious will make me happy.

With her stomach satisfied, rubbing her swollen stomach, she relaxed while using the fork that came with the cup ramen in place of a toothpick.
Right then the door opened with a *klack*, and the grim face of the man they called Boss appeared.

“Looks like you’re awake. Did you figure anything out about that box?”

“Aan-!? Why the fuck do I have to listen to YOUR orders-!?”

I wonder where Hyurumi, in this situation of being kidnapped, gets the nerve to jeer at a fierce-looking, large man. I don’t see even a smidgen of fear. I wouldn’t be surprised if her heart was made of steel.

“You’ve got guts. If you enter the group, we’ll welcome you and treat you good.”

“Sorry, but I ain’t got no intentions of listening to villains or getting treated by them.”

“Oi oi, you should act tough in moderation. You want to meet the same end as your friends?”

“Keh-, those guys ain’t my friends. They only my hired escorts.

So she hired escorts. *Maa*, of course, huh? However you look at it, there’s no way a girl who doesn’t look like she’s trained her muscles would be exploring, wandering alone on a level full of monsters.

“But you know, though they was just hired with cash, I ain’t gonna forgive you shits who killed them-!”

“Ha-, and what can one powerless woman do? I’m not the patient type. So, yeah, in two days, fix this box, and get the gold coins out from it. Got it?”

The boss said only that, then walked away.
Hyurumi made a slashing motion with her thumb across her neck, sticking out her tongue.

A grace period of two days, huh? By then, will we make a plan to break out, or if nothing changes will she be killed, or will she meet something worse than death? I have to do something.

<T/n: Thank you MC, NK, RC, JG, and Glashmonster for your donations!
Left out the A/N again, since it was about how there were 2 updates. Which is, once again, impossible for me, so …
To think that p0rn is now a word that shows up on my blog… orz
I am almost done being a cheapskate and making all my window treatments. Translation pace will pick up soon after that.>

Whereabouts

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Whereabouts

While I’m still unable to think of a way to break the deadlock, two days have come and passed on into night. Those guys seem to think I’m broken, so they haven’t come even once to buy my products.

Though, the three guys I passed the porn-mags onto, they’ve come just once more, acting shady and sneaking sidelong glances at me. Looks like that trio didn’t spread the news about me transforming and giving them the magazines for free. Probably, if they told the other guys about it, then the news that they were going to assault Hyurumi would spread; of course they’d hate for it to reach the Boss’ ears.
Or they could be afraid that the magazines would be confiscated.

While conversing with me, Hyurumi conducted a very laid-back analysis. It’s not because she wants to report to the Boss; she’s doing it out of pure scientific curiosity.

For the time being, those guys deliver a morning and evening meal, but that girl threw everything into a barrel that was left in a corner of the room with a lid. All of her meals are provided for with things that I offer, so there’s no need for her to eat that disgusting stuff.

By the way, today’s dinner is two types of cup ramen and reformed potato chips. I thought about stocking new, novel products, but at this moment, Points are precious. To provide for the worst case scenario, even if it’s just a little, I decide to reserve some.

“Kuwaaa. Thanks for tonight too. Maan, your food rocks. Even if I study it like crazy, I won’t even be able to hold a candle to it.”

Though it’s not me that’s amazing, it’s the manufacturer’s abilities.

With two days’ time, thanks to feeding her meals to her stomach’s content, her skin’s become quite glossy. Vitality and meat seemed to return to her cheeks. With this, even though her figure had lost weight, you can see her attractiveness from before.

Her scruffy hair as well is slicked back with her fingers, taking on the appearance of picture-perfect hair. This is the result of my originally cold bottled water being warmed up, as well as me providing shampoo and toiletries that are provided by vending machines in hotels and bath houses. Of course I provided a towel too.

“*Fu-u*, that feels good.”

Completely not minding the me who’s a vending machine, with her top half bared, hair washed, and body wiped down, Hyurumi drained a bottle of coffee milk, fully satisfied.

The height of the bath is the coffee milk. I won’t back down on that at all. Looking back over the girl who had stripped off her black coat, her top half is regrettable, but her bottom half has all the allures of a woman. If we’re talking child-bearing hips … she doesn’t have those, though.

If I were a regular guy then this would be an arousing scene, but since I’ve become a vending machine, that kind of urge has faded. It’s convenient that I don’t have any ways to divulge my emotions.

Hyurumi is acting like she has all the time in the world, but her time limit is the morning of tomorrow. Tonight is probably her last chance to run away. If I draw those guys’ attention, in that moment she could escape. That’s the best plan I could come up with, but I don’t have any techniques to communicate that.

What’s with this automatic communications disorder. If it’s going to be like this, then it might turn into a siege battle … if she can somehow get me in front of the door, it will be a lot harder for them to open the door. For food, I can put it out; if we’re talking one week, we would be able to hold out well.
But if we do that, how she’ll get me in front of the door is going to be a problem; it’s big hindrance to my plane.

“*Maa*, what’s gonna happen’s gonna happen. Ain’t nothing for Hakkon to worry about! After I explain your worth to those guys, if we tell them it takes time for you to heal, they dumb, so we can trick them easily!”

After wiping her body completely dry, she took off the clothes she’d been wearing until now, and put on the underwear and over-sized man’s T-shirt I provided.

Aa, underwear with a loose, flowing T-shirt up top. To think that the situation I’d dreamed of fulfillment for at least once in Japan would be experienced in another world. Something I could only see after reincarnation.

Of course the underwear and T-shirt were things I bought from a vending machine. A, I would like to point out that I accidentally bought the women’s underwear. I’d REALLY like to point that out.

“It’s kinda cold to wear just this, as expected.”

Though she’s refreshed, she’s going to put on that black coat again, huh? I have experience purchasing underwear and shirts from vending machines, but unfortunately I haven’t seen pajamas. I bet you could find them if you looked for them, but though I’m a vending machine maniac, I’m still lacking.

I haven’t seen blankets or futons in vending machines, and even if there were, they’d be way too big for an impulse buy. That said, I can put out an over-sized bath towel. They’re goods that are often found in bath houses and hotels.

“This is so white and clean, I don’t really want to use it.”

I’d like you to use it without holding back. Or else you’ll catch a cold. I don’t know what’s going to happen from now on. You’ll need to be in perfect shape to prepare if you don’t want to give up until the end.

“Hakkon, you okay if we talk about something serious?”

“Welcome.”

She came around to my front and spread the bath towel on the ground, and there she sat with her legs crossed. If she sits like that her underwear is in full view, but she didn’t mind it at all. *Maa*, if the other party is a vending machine, it’d be a weird story to get embarrassed in front of it.

“Just in case, if you try to become a decoy to let me escape, it’s gonna be useless. Even if I get outside, we’re in a stretch of land with swarms of monsters; ya think me without any fighting abilities is gonna make it very far?”

She read me like a book, huh? Since, even though I’m only able to express my intentions with indicators for YES and NO, these past 2 days she’s talked to me a quite a bit. In the first place, she’s really smart, so reading me with my simple thought circuit is easy.

“Too bad.”

“Right? That’s why breaking out is a no go. We got no choice but to buy time and wait for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. From Hakkon’s side, I probably look like a super reckless chick. I ain’t got strength, just this trashy attitude, but I still live life on the edge. It ain’t like I’m not afraid of death. Nah, if anything, my feelings are just paralyzed about it … *Aa*-, what am I talking about. Anyway, Imma sleep! Night!”

“Please come again.”

Right there she laid out and wrapped the bath towel over her head; in the blink of an eye she was asleep. That ability in sleeping can be called a special trait, my goodness.

We really did talk about something heavy. For her, there seems to be some circumstances she can’t tell people. I don’t have any means to try to ask and dig up anything and everything from her, and I don’t have any intentions on digging up the past she wants hidden anyway.

Anyway, it’s already late into the night. And those guys are probably keeping watch outside the door and throughout the repurposed fortress so I can’t do anything. Even if I could do something, exactly what could I do as a vending machine? I literally don’t have the hands for it.

What I can do for this girl is, in the case those idiots come a second time to assault her, I can protect her with Barrier, that’s it.

I get it, but I just can’t calm down, so I survey the room; an old desk, chair, the documents, a magic tool light; there isn’t anything like small hand tools. The ceiling height is about 3 meters thereabouts, and the walls, floor, and ceiling are

all made of stone, so when you look at it, it appears solemn and sturdy.

When you talk about a “break out”, tunneling under the walls is the standard, but exactly how many years would it take that possibility? In the end, no matter how much I looked around, I couldn’t find any way to break the stalemate, so I was just about to give up and wait for tomorrow.

It was then that a faint sound flowed in, along with a faint shake to the vending machine body. E, what was that? It really is very faint, but didn’t it sound like something just burst?
Thinking it couldn’t be that, I primed my ears, and once again I heard something in the distance explode, along with the sounds of weapons clashing.

“Oi, what was that sound!?”

“It’s from upstairs!”

The guards keeping watch raised panicked voices and their footsteps faded into the distance. Is this the fortress getting attacked!? If that’s the case, I need to wake Hyurumi.

“Congratulations. You have won another bottle. Congratulations. You have won another bottle. Congratulations. You have won another bottle.”

“*Fuei?* E, what, what, e, o , wh,what’s going on, Hakkon.”

Wiping away her drool with one hand, she stared at me with a blank expression. I can’t really explain, but anyway, here’s a canned coffee to wake you up.

“O-, thanks. *Kuhaaaa,* one of these right when you wake up hits the spot-!”

As always, she acts like an old man, but right now, who cares? The current situation is, no matter how I think about it, a raid. The problem is, who are those guys fighting?

There are about two possibilities on who’s raiding. The monsters on this level. Or just maybe – the Hunters.

With the community becoming lively, these villain-like guys might have sniffed out the money and come flooding in too. Stealing me is probably not their first offense; it’s likely that their crimes have been piling up. These guys might be

marked.
Even if that's the case, this timing is way too good to be a coincidence. That means …

A-, could it be that they were waiting for me to get stolen?
Me, who is a lucrative lump of iron sitting there, aren't I the best target? I can't move on my own, and I can't resist, I'm just a big piggy bank left on the side of the road. So yeah, I'm basically a big target for criminals to aim at.

And then, stealing me would be a pretty big-scale job. I'm a heavy thing with the proportions to match, so it will take some time and effort to carry me off. There isn't anyone else who would be more suitable for bait.
E, could it be that I've hit upon the tactics that the Bear President was thinking about using?
But, if it was the Bear President, then he would have told me before hand. No, could it be that when he was going to tell me, they attacked so he took advantage of it? Whichever, with their predictions coming true, they saved us!

"This sounds like … who they fighting?"

Now that Hyurumi's finally wide awake, her always sharp eyes didn't move from the door and she strained her ears while she stood.

"Yeah, they definitely fighting someone. I dunno who it is, but this might be our chance."

She has the same opinion as me. Right now our biggest worry is the template where both parties get annihilated. If that happens, then we'll end up remaining trapped in this room.

She's been struggling to open the door since a while ago, but since it's locked with a key from the outside, it looks like no matter what she does, it's useless-ish.

"'Kooooooon"

E, that voice right then. It just needs a "Ha-" and it's a voice I've heard before. Hyurumi also seems to think so; she knit her brows together and clung to the door.

"Haaa-kkooooon! Wheeeeeere are yooooouuuu!"

I know that voice all too well; that loud voice you can hear from the other side of the massive door is —

“Ramis!?”

That’s right, it’s Ramis’ voice!
There’s no way I’d mishear that voice. In other words, that means the ones who are attacking are the Hunters. We’re saved!

“A, e, why’s that chick here? The Hunter Association send her? And she’s calling Hakkon’s name. You mean, you know each other?”

“Welcome.”

“Ooooo-, that so! Then, I’d just get in the way and drag them down, so let’s stay put. It’d be way uncool to get taken as a hostage.”

Deciding that the safest place would be next to me, she put her clothes back on and entrusted her back to me.

“If it gets dicey, protect me, *na*!”

“Welcome”

Leave it to me. If it’s just protection, I have confidence in it.

I can hear the clashing of weapons as well as harsh words. The ground tremors you’d feel from time to time are most likely originating from Ramis. If she’s removed her limiters and is wielding her Super-Strength at full force, the pillars and walls of the decaying, on the verge of collapse fortress might as well be made of styrofoam against her.

“This, could be bad.”

All of a sudden, Hyurumi’s voice leaked out as she stared at the ceiling. From that, I looked at the ceiling too, but I don’t see anything particularly off about it. A bit of dust is falling from it, but I don’t think it’s at the point of collapsing.

“Above us is a storage room; the coins those shits have been hoarding be stashed there. If it was just that, we’d be fine, but those morons put defective Magic Stones … aka Explosive Stones, all up in there. Originally Magic Stones be stones used as fuel for magic tools, but sometimes you get weird Magic Stones with internal magic power flowin’ through, and you can’t use them as fuel. If

you’re shit with them and do it anyway, you’ll just bust your magic tool.”

So there are Magic Stones too. I was wondering how magic tools work, but I see, it was that sort of thing.

“And so, Magic Stones with defects is hard to handle; when a country tried to stash them up to be used as weapons, there be stories about how it blew to high heaven and took the surrounding land with it. That’s why it be common sense nowadays to get rid of them as soon as you find them … but those guys, fully knowing it, sold off the Explosive Stones as if they was Magic Stones to merchants many times, and have been stocking them up in the storage room above like crazy. They gotta be messed up in the head.”

If this was someone else’s problem, it’d be a story where you’d go, “Man, they’re dumb” and continue on, but in other words, above our heads is an explosion just waiting to happen … are they idiots!?

“So, yeah, you get that it’ll be real bad if the Explosive Stones get a strong shock. You’d be right in thinking even the roof up there would collapse.”

Aa, yeah. I don’t need any further explanation. Ramis-san, could you hold your strength back a little-!
Somehow, the oscillations and crashing are gradually getting closer, though-!

“A, that’s bad, for reals.”

In the moment that Hyurumi muttered that, the ceiling came tumbling down with a loud roar.

<T/N: Thank you Luna for your donation!
Sorry, cliff-hanger. I got a headache from translating this one, so Imma leave it hanging.
Hyurumi’s bad grammar is on purpose.>

As a Vending Machine Maniac

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

As a Vending Machine Maniac

I'd have gone deaf temporarily if I had eardrums, that's how loud the explosion that filled the underground room was; looking up at the ceiling, a creaking fissure has begun to run freely.
A, it's done for!

"I,it's caving in-! Kyaaaaaa-!"

This is not the time to think how cute she is when she screams; go, <Barrier>!

Barely in time, the blue wall surrounded us; the collapsed ceiling that had entered the inner part of the Barrier was rejected and flicked outwards. *Mou*, being wrapped up in that noise, you can't discern any other sounds; Hyurumi is squatting with her hands over her ears.

When the sound finally stopped, we are now trapped in the rubble. Originally we'd probably be in a darkness that light couldn't pass through, but the body of a vending machine is brimming with light, so you can see the surroundings well.

"Y,you saved my ass, Hakkon. Ain't you a capable man, ya bastard."

She lightly thumped my iron body with a fist. It's not exactly a safe situation, but for now we can make do. But you know, the problem is going to be from here on out.

We'll make do with food somehow. The biggest problem is maintaining the Barrier. Maintaining the Barrier at ten thousand points, with 1 point reduction every second, is my limit. One hour reduces my points by 3600, so if we aren't dug out in three hours, we won't be able to do anything than get crushed and die.

If it was just me … if I raise my Defense I can probably withstand it. But, I don't have even the slightest intentions of choosing that. If I abandon her, I'll regret it for the rest of my life. Even though I'm no longer human, I'd like my heart at least to stay human.
And I don't want to see Ramis' crying face at all.

"Hakkon, can you keep this Barrier up forever?"
"Too bad."

Spewing out lies won't help any. I should convey the scope of what I can do in this situation, and find a way to save the both of us.

"Do you not have even an hour's worth?"
"Too bad."

"Is two hours your limit?"
"Too bad."

"You have about three hours worth?"
"Welcome"

"I see, we got three hours about … just about no room for error, it sucks."

That's right, we have no time. We absolutely have to break out of our current situation before time runs out. Vending Machine products that we can use as tools to help us escape —- don't exist.

It's heartless, but this is reality. I have an overwhelming lack of Points if I want to choose a Divine Blessing. If my functions had a drill option, then we'd be talking, but of course that sort of thing doesn't exist. Even if it exists, I bet it would need an exorbitant amount of points.
No matter what I think of, I get checkmated, but I won't give up yet. There still has to be some combination of things …

"Oi, Hakkon. To maintain the Divine Blessing, could it be you need money? Y'know, back when we was talking about how you can use money for other things."

"Welcome."

Aa, we did talk about that. Naturally, if we could gather a large amount of

coins then we can make do, changing them to points to maintain the Barrier, but Hyurumi's coins and luggage, all of it, were taken away. The kind of money we're talking about doesn't exist anywhere here.

"Like I thought. Then we'll manage somehow. Hakkon, look up."

Somehow?
I can't just obediently take her word for it, but I shift my vision above to the debris-filled area where the ceiling originally was. And what do you want me to — E, that is.

"See it? That's a bag stuffed with coins. Remember, I told you, above us is a storage room."

A, aa, that's right. The entire reason for this great catastrophe was because the storage room was right over head. With the floor missing, it's obvious what's in the storage room will fall down.
Then, let's change the permissions so only that bag can enter the Barrier!

When it fell to the ground, from the mouth of the bag, which seemed like a child could be in it, gold, silver, and copper coins all mixed together spilled out.
Alriiiiiight, just with this, we have more than enough to keep the Barrier going. Just the coins that spilled out have the power to keep it going for a full day.
Now I just need to change the prices for the products; let's change them to one gold coin and above.

"Alright, I'm going to buy whatever I want!"

Gold coins, silver coins, all coins were inserted in large quantities, and the Points went up like you wouldn't believe. This is probably money those guys got their hands on through criminal acts, but I can't return it to the victims so I'll use it well.
If those guys' head guy knew how all of his stashed money was disappearing, I bet he'd go crazy.

We don't have to worry about the Barrier anymore. If we can hold out for three days, then Ramis will probably run into us, digging out the rubble. And in addition, if I let my voice out, I believe that she'll realize it if she's close.

My life's crisis is fading; I'm no longer super tense.

Now all we have left to do is wait for help. Hyurumi is also completely at ease, chewing on over one gold coin, expensively priced molded potato chips. Though with her stomach full, she's gotten sleepy so it's quiet.

"Haa-haa- haahaa, what the … breathing, hurts."

E-, isn't her face color bad? Her breathing's also rough, and she looks like she's in pain with her hand on her forehead. What on earth could have happened, she was that energetic just a minute ago … Aa-, I'm an idiot!

Just because my own body's mechanical, I committed a huge blunder. Right now, that girl is suffocating. Unlike me, people need to breathe. In a space buried airtight with no cracks in it, humans can't survive very long.

Dammit, if I had just thought a little I should have realized it. Just because I won't die I got careless, and now she's being exposed to danger right before my eyes.

"My head hurts, haa haa haa"

What should I do? The excess time we just had doesn't exist. If Hyurumi passes out from lack of air, I won't be able to do anything. Once she runs out of oxygen, then … oxygen … that's it!

I know I have it, that function. I thought I wouldn't ever have to take it, but right now, I have never been happier to be a vending machine maniac.

I changed into a vending machine with a retro feeling to it. It's a form change with an oblong shape that you can't really say was good design sense; on the top, words in kanji appeared.

『酸素自動販売機』
(Oxygen Vending Machine)

From my middle was a mask that can completely cover the nose and mouth, connected to the main body with a thin tube; from that it's possible to supply oxygen.

"Haa haa, wh,what's this for?"

Originally it was a system where 50 yen supplied 3000 cc's of oxygen, but of course this time there's no charge. Even if she doesn't notice it, it'll be fine

because I'll just keep putting out oxygen. Since it will be fine if I can supply the entire space with oxygen.

"Haa haa, here, haa haa haa … something's coming out … should I, haa haa, breathe it in?"

"Welcome"

She equipped the mask firmly to her mouth. She sucked in the oxygen greedily, and her pained face gradually became calm; looks like she'll be fine.

Haaaaaa, I panicked. In vending machine exhibits and museums, I've seen them and debated it before plunging in; becoming a part of the vending machine maniac community paid off.

This oxygen vending machine was a vending machine that actually came out around Showa 40 (1965). At that time in Japan, air pollution was a big problem, so it seems like one of the links to the plan to counter-act that was to install one of these on the Ginza.
What I know about has its limits, but this is a gem that definitely enters my top strange vending machines.

I have an abundance of points, so I can keep up both Barrier and the oxygen together; there's no problem. Now we just leisurely wait for her to get saved. Of course, this time I'm going to check that I didn't overlook something, though.

I can provide a meal at any time; there's a mound of products littering the floor, so there shouldn't be a problem for a time. I even have more than enough Points for a while. In case anything unexpected happens, I'll remain on guard and vigilant for a while. Like this, it'll be perfect. There's nothing I overlooked, I think.

What we've dealt with has been awful, and I'm sorry that there was nothing I could do, but even when I make a mistake, I can follow it up, so we'll manage somehow. Until we're saved, I swear that I won't be careless.

"Thanks, Hakkon. Ya know, if you were human, you'd be pretty sick."

With her sitting there, embarrassed with upturned eyes, even though I'm a vending machine, my chest — equipment started beating fast. But you know, even with this law of nature, I'm entrusting myself to Ramis.

Even now, though I'm not squished and broken, I wonder if she'll cry. She should know about my Barrier and sturdiness, so she should know I'm okay, so she probably won't overdo it.

Interrupting my one-sided thoughts, a weird sound echoed from over head. *Scrape scrape*, like something was being shaved off, a low bass rumble mixed with an angry sound like something heavy being dropped on the ground.
Even that sound is soon cut off – – by a certain girl's scream.

"Hakkon! Where, where are you-! Even if it's not safe, reply!"

That tormented voice is … crying, huh? For goodness sake, crying for a vending machine, even a maniac like me will go pale.

"Fuhahahaha. Ramis be calling you, Hakkon. Do a reply."

Hyurumi stood up and *bang bang* smacked my back.

The rubble overhead was blown away, a magic light shone in, and Ramis peered in at us. Her face was wet with snot and tears, and she had cried her eyes out, so the area surrounding her eyes were swollen and red. I understood exactly how worried she was about me in a single glance.

"Hakkooooooooon-!"

Without any hesitation, she dove down towards me from above. I changed the permission of the Barrier to let Ramis in, and Ramis slipped through and crashed into me.

《25 damage. Endurance has been reduced by 25.》

Guwa-, ku, I took more damage than I thought. But, read the atmosphere, damage read out.

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry, *ne*. It's because I took my eyes off you this happened."

There's no need to blame yourself like that. Aside from that, I'm really happy about the hug, but my body is starting to give off a bad kind of jarring sound-.

《10 damage. Endurance has been reduced by 10》

… Let's do an Endurance recovery. If I leave it, I'll likely lose my life after being saved. Calm down, Ramis.

“Thank you”

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry, I’m so happy you’re saaaaaafe.”

I don’t have any arms to hug the crying girl, nor do I have the mouth to convey words of comfort, but I have the heart that is glad that I’ve met you. That I could meet you again, I’m really happy, Ramis.

—

A/N: With this, Volume 1 has concluded.
I am looking forward to our further associations.

<T/N: Ooooh, end of volume 1! Looking forward to starting volume 2. Are… how did I manage 2 chapters in 1 day?>

Together with You

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Together with You

“Hakkon … don’t go off anywhere anymore …”

Since then, after we were pulled up, we rested in a corner of the fortress. Ramis’ high-tension seemed to have been cut and, leaning against me, she fell asleep.
It looks like while I wasn’t around she searched for me without sleeping.

“Ramis is way dependent on Hakkon, *na*. Being all freaked out like this … yeah, definitely because of THAT time back then.”

THAT time back then? Something that bothers me just came out of Hyurumi’s mouth.

“Too bad.”

“Aa, you don’t know anything about it. *Maa*, it’s ok to tell Hakkon, I guess. Me and Ramis are from the same village; the childhood friends thing.”

I see. They look like complete opposites, but they say people with polar opposite personalities can unexpectedly get along well, *na*.

“*Maa*, it’s a story ya hear a lot. Village with little to no reputation gets attacked by monsters and disappears. Me and Ramis are one of the few survivors … *maa*, y’know, both our parents is dead.”

Ramis has some childish tendencies, and I thought she behaved like a spoiled child in places, but she might have unconsciously been looking for someone she could rely on like a foster parent in me.

“For me, *maa*, I got this kind of personality so I’m good, but for that chick,

even though she got all that power, she was so scared she couldn't do nothing, and she always regretted it. She so dumb, even though she can't even kill a bug she wants to be a Hunter, she's an idiot."

Her words are sharp, but her voice contains thankfulness towards the other party.

Certainly her super-strength is an ability that suits a Hunter, but to be honest, Ramis' personality conflicts with it and doesn't suit. When she was working at the inn and clearing away the rubble, she honestly looked like she was having fun; if it's possible, I'd rather her not return to the dangers of being a Hunter.

"Hakkon, is right now a good time?"

"Welcome."

O, the Bear President is here too. When I look, these guys attacked the base with roughly only ten people, but within the members there are also figures of the Fools of Whimsy Brigade as well. While the Leader and Vice-Leader are taking a break, they seem to be interested in what's going on over here.

"Ramis is asleep, huh? It looks like her fatigue has been adding up, so let her sleep like this. I want to apologize for this time's matter. We had already received information that this bandit group was aiming at yourself[1]. In order to catch all of them in one swoop, we had planned to ask for yourself's cooperation to act as bait the next day, but those guys moved faster, and so that's how this situation came to be. Even so, we fully intended to come help, and I gave orders for yourself to be tailed. Even though we were tracking them down, the fact that we allowed yourself to be exposed to danger doesn't change. Our apologies."

The Bear President lowered his head deeply. It's all more or less what I expected, so I wasn't surprised, nor did any anger well up. And in the end, by not obstructing my abduction, I had gotten the chance to meet and save Hyurumi.

If they weren't able to abduct me, she would have probably been disposed of or taken away to somewhere else. Since that's the case, no harm, no foul.

"Welcome."

"With regards to this time's matter, a reward will come out from our side. Furthermore, the next when anything happens to yourself, we promise that the

Hunter Association will hold nothing back to assist yourself.”

Just getting the connections with the Association as a powerful ally is more than enough of an award.

“Shit-, get off. You bastards, you intending to steal my money hoard-?!”

That yelling voice is those guys’ boss-man. When I moved my sight towards him, those guys are there, tied up with rope and gathered together. Nearby there’s also bodies that aren’t moving lying down; corpses, huh. There’s one of the rooms’ guards. Even though I’m looking at peoples’ corpses, my heart isn’t disturbed in the slightest.
This is probably another why I’ve changed after becoming a vending machine.

“Oi oi, you’re worried about your money over your life? You’re sure carefree, *nee*. *Maa*, the Hunter Association will use your huge stash of money effectively. No worries.”

While tracing the brim of his hat with his finger, Leader Keryoil said that in a slow way and rubbed his sleepy-looking eyes.

I’m happy to have been helped out, but now I owe the Fools of Whimsy Brigade one. I won’t do anything that gives me a bad feeling, though. A, Leader-san, most of that guy’s stashed coins are inside my body. I feel like he’ll get mad if he finds out.

Maa, in any case, with this the abduction incident is over. Now all that’s left is to wait for morning and, relying on that girl’s comfortable back, return.

Nooow then, shall we give the good ladies and gentlemen who participated a huge feast? Since I’ve added on the mode to heat frozen foods, I can put out grilled rice balls, kara’age, fries, fried rice, fried soba, and fried octopus dumplings. Since the frozen food manufacturer is a famous one, even though it’s from a vending machine I guarantee its taste.
By the way, my recommendation is the kara’age.

“O-, Hakkon’s shape just changed. What’s with these delicious-looking pictures of food?”

“Aren’t these all foods that we’ve never seen before now?”

“You guys, calm down. It might be dangerous. First the Leader, that is me, should try it out.”

“Not faaaaaair! Leader, you’re being unfair!”

“Oppression! A brigade that doesn’t treasure its subordinates will never grow!”

In front of me, pushing aside the lined up hunters, Leader Keryoil had cut in line, but his brigade members clung to him to block his movements.

“A-, crap. You guys, I’ll reduce your reward this time for this -.”

“What are you idiots doing? Hakkon-san, it looks like there’s nothing in the prices. Could it be, you’re treating us?”

“Welcome.”

“Thank you very much. Well then, I wonder if this meat lump is a fried dish, this one.”

Ignoring the Leader and brigade members horsing around, the Vice-Leader Filmina-san pushed the button for kara’age.

“Thank you very much.”

“O, oi, Filmina, how could you just casually cut in line?”

“Vice-Leader Filmina, how unfair”

“This meat, it’s unbelievably tender, *ne*. When you bite down, the meat juices from inside come spilling out .. *haaaa*”

The Vice-Leader Filmuna, who always had a cold image, is resting her hand on her cheek with a broad smile. In front of that ecstatically happy face, the other Hunters, like they couldn’t wait any longer, stretched out their fingers one by one.

Yes, yes, don’t quarrel, there’s enough. Everyone, eat and drink to your heart’s content. I’m not providing alcohol, but other than that, I’ll put out whatever you want.

“These guys gathering around Hakkon, they getting so damn happy. That ain’t something even humans can do this easy.”

Hyurumi, with her black coat closed for once, lightly tapped my body, *clang clang*.

It was just a casual statement, but inside me it felt like something hot had quietly slipped in. Since my body is mechanical, this kind of feeling probably shouldn't exist, but I want to believe that this warm feeling isn't my imagination.

Just providing the Hunters who continue to eat and drink gives me a feeling of happiness; rather than a vending machine that has become aware, it's the obvious sentiment of a person. With these feelings, as long as I never forget this sensation, I will continue from hereon out doing the duties of a vending machine.

"Hakkoooon… we'll always … be together … zzz"

Ramis' sleep-talk, huh? With a happy-looking sleeping face, she curled up into a ball like a cat.
Aa, until the day that you wish to be separated from me, let's stay together.

Without any accidents on the way, we reached the community.

At my safe return from the thieves' hideout, the gatekeepers, Karios and Gols, greeted me, thrilled that I'm back. Furthermore, once I returned to the front of the Hunter Association, customers came one after another, people crammed in to the point you couldn't see them in the nearby areas.

Somehow, it appears there's people who can't calm down without having my products everyday, so the number of people who bought large amounts of stuff isn't few. Gazing out over the customers neatly lined up, in a place a bit away from us, with her eyes glinting, is the money-exchanger, Akoui-san, her glasses giving off a suspicious light. She's writing something at blazing speeds into a notepad she's holding. It's probably something like I have way more than enough money stashed up so they can go recover the silver coins.

Despite the fact that we returned early in the morning, the line didn't break even when it became night; when I dealt with the last customer, it was well into the time that could be called late night.

"Good work today too, Hakkon."

From behind me I heard a familiar voice. Ramis lined up next to me.

What did she come to do this late at night; if I was normal then this would probably be that surprising scene, but if you think about it calmly there's a reason for this. She was always there. Today, all day, she was always nearby.

Of course when she had to take care of business she would leave me, but even then, the furthest distance she took away from me was not more than 5 meters. And then, right now she's tucked up in a sleeping bag with only her face showing. She looks like a brown cod-fish egg with just a human head, smiling happily.

My abduction seems to be haunting her, so she decided that tonight she definitely wouldn't leave me and she would sleep outside. Hyurumi and Munami both wanted to join her, but she stubbornly refused them.

Looks like the Bear President is also worried, since there's a guard standing watch in the entrance of the Hunter Association that has never been there before, keeping watch in our direction.
"Hakkon too, since a lot has happened and you're probably tired, you better sleep."

"Welcome."

Since it seems like that's all for today, I shut off the lights.

It's been a while since she and I had been separated, but there's no vending machine that receives this kind of over-excessive worrying, you know? So then, until Ramis realizes this, let's keep her company.

"Before we sleep, is it fine to talk to you?"

Of course. If you're fine with me who can only play the listener's role, I'll accompany you however much you want.

While listening to the girl happily talking, I switched my gaze to the sky, and there the night sky was spread out. We're inside a dungeon that's just like outside, but it looks like there's nothing like stars. Even though there's a sun.

Gazing at the mysterious view of the dungeon that doesn't use Japan's common sense, aa, it really feels like I've come home.

With the me who's acquainting myself with my heart's true feelings, Ramis,

with her entire face beaming happily with no signs of stopping, continued talking until the evening went somewhere far away.

---

1. onushi – just another way to say “you”, so translating it to “yourself”

The Devotion to You

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

The Devotion to You

My field of vision violently shakes up and down, right and left. And, once in a while, the scenery gets blown away at high speeds.

“Hakkon, it’s just a bit longer until lunch, so we’ll take a break *ne*.”

I hear the voice of Ramis, who’s energetically in the midst of reconstruction work today as well, from a very close distance. Since I’m on her back, of course she’s close, but wouldn’t it be fine to put me down?

I just got back from being kidnapped, so Ramis is always by my side. Though I had been installed on the ground during reconstruction up until now, for some reason I’m being carried on her back. The time she let me go is, other than the times she has to go to the toilet, we’re pretty much together the whole day. It’s not that I dislike it, but … isn’t her attachment too strong?

“You guys be getting along a little *too* well. Yo, Hakkon, doing well?”[1]

The one raising her hand lightly and coming closer is Hyurumi, wearing her black coat today as well. As always, she seems indifferent to her attire and fashion, and her scruffy hair is suitably tied back.
If the time when she was the neatest was when she was kidnapped and confined, what does that say?

“A-, Hyurumi. You look fine now. You don’t feel tired anymore?”

“Oo. Or like, when I was shut up I ate some damn tasty stuff, so I’m full of energy.”

These two really do seem to get along well; everyday she aims to come and

meet us around break time.

Fundamentally, it gives off the feeling of Hyurumi being the smart older sister, but sometimes it's an amusing relationship where Ramis asks about her body's wellbeing while acting like a mother.

"But man, how about letting Hakkon down when you're working? Ain't he in the way?"

"I'm perfectly fine, you know. Because I have more than enough strength, and if I don't have something about as heavy as Hakkon my body is too light, and actually it gets tough to move."

U-n, your reasons aren't that alone, *na*. I'm happy that you're worried about me, but over-protection, or like, the degree of your worry is way too much. It would probably be better to do something about this.

"But ya know, look, if Ramis be right there all the time, ain't there gonna be customers who'll pull back?"

"A, *uu-.* But, if I leave him, he could get kidnapped again."

"Hakkon'll be super careful this time. Right?"

"Welcome."

"U,u-n. If Hakkon says so, then"

She does it reluctantly, but Ramis sets me on the ground; with a displeased face, her cheeks are puffing out a little. With this I've secured a little bit of private time, too. Good job Hyurumi.

To be perfectly honest, being constantly carried caused my sales to drop quite a bit. Well yeah, a vending machine violently moving on someone's back is going to be a hassle for anyone with the guts to try to buy products. The two gatekeepers called out once, and so she stopped so they could buy something, though

Ramis keeps sneaking side glances, looking away from the work she was doing to a point where I was worried she would hurt herself.

I'm doing pretty good over here; the customers that have been hesitating to stretch out their hands up until now gathered in front of me. Alright, now it's

time to make back the potential losses.

I sold way more than I expected to at lunchtime; I restocked the things that liked like they'd sell well; since the products are just about all made hot, in order to avoid them going stale, they sat down right in front of the Hunter Association.

When it became evening, up until now Ramis stayed by my side and ate vending machine products, but the mindful Hyurumi came and fetched her over to Munami and Okami-san's temporarily established eatery.

Around this time it's the usual lull in people, so for the first time in a while I'm a person ––I mean, a machine, by himself leisurely spending the time, when someone came walking through with his head hanging down.

That is, one of the three morning regulars, the young male merchant *na*. Even though he's always floating an aimless, pleasant smile, and gives off the good impression of have pleasant manners towards the old couple, it's like he's giving off a black aura surrounding his body, he's depressed to that degree.

"Haa… it's not going well, *naa*. Recently it's been busier than ever. My chances to talk to her are … even though tomorrow's her birthday."

Listening to his breathy muttering, I've come to an understanding. I'm pretty sure this guy had fallen for the inn's poster girl, Munami. He'd like the relationship to progress, but he's worried whether it will go well. So it's love worries, huh; I'd love to discuss it with him, but feedback is currently not my specialty.

"Haa, Hakkon-san, recently I've been worried that I can't focus."

From the exact opposite direction of the young merchant approached an extra-large gori … is the money-exchanger's assistant, Goggai.

In spite of his looks, that person is gentle, and previously he had watched over a crying child who had fallen until he stood up, and with a "That's really admirable, standing up all by yourself," he smiled warmly; he's that sort of person.

"Oh, it's the money-exchanger's Goggai-san, isn't it?"

"Oh my. For your assistance several days ago, thank you."

Since the two of them are acquaintances, they greeted each other lightly. *Maa*, for a merchant and a money-exchanger to have had contact before isn't unthinkable. They talked about rumors of the weather and business, exchanging the type of harmless small-talk that neither feels too invested in, and it felt like I was watching a crappy play.

From time to time, both would steal glances in my direction. Apparently, both of them would like to buy something, but even though it should be fine to buy whatever product you'd like even if there's an onlooker, I should probably do something.

"Welcome."

"A-, would you like something to drink? Let me get it for you." (merchant)

"No no, I've been in Hakkon-san's care, so I will."(Goggai)

The two of them repeated the "Let me"s and "I will"s. Normally speaking, the "Then, I-" "Go ahead" flow would have been the perfect chance to break out of it, though.

"The, this time I will buy it, and the next time we meet I will leave it up to you; is that fine?" (merchant)

"Understood. I thank you for this time." (Goggai)

The young merchant drank his usual milk tea, and Goggai drank his usual lemon tea. Both of them chose hot drinks. The season is like early winter, the season when hot drinks are delicious, after all. We're in a dungeon but there are seasons, it's a little late to be having problems with it.

"Haa, it's very calming, *ne*."(merchant)

"Hakkon-san really has all sorts of delicious products, so it can be troubling to choose one."(Goggai)

Even though it's just the act of drinking something hot together, it feels like the distance between them has gotten a little shorter. Their conversation is livelier than before.

"By the way, this might be a bit rude …but you had a somewhat serious looking face before." (Goggai)

“Ah, how embarrassing. It’s just, that’s, girl-related worries.” (merchant)

“Is that what it was. Would you like to talk about it? If you say your worries out loud, they will feel a little less severe. *Aa*-, that’s right. I also have worries about being Akoui-san’s assisnt, so if it would be alright with you, I’d be grateful if you listened to me afterwards.”

I see; if there’s the situation that Goggai-san will speak frankly about his worries after, it makes it easier for the young merchant to talk. Akoui-san has a severe personality that doesn’t seem like the type to do well with negotiations, so he’s probably forever cleaning up after her.

“Actually, I have an unrequited love for this woman, and I have obtained information that her birthday is very soon, but I can’t think about what would be best to do. I’d like to hand her a present, but we’re not that close at all since I’m just another customer, so I don’t know if she’d be happy to receive it.”

“I see, that is certainly a problem to worry about, *ne*. Even if the present is expensive, it doesn’t mean it would be suitable. If you were at the level of being quite intimate, there are always gemstones or jewelry, but as a regular customer, if you suddenly handed something like that over, it would give a strange impression.”

“It’s like that, *ne.* It’s embarrassing to say, but because I was doing business so much, I have no experience in love; to be able to come up with the optimal answer to this is something that’s beyond me.”

Because he’s young man who’s way to serious, he’s probably lived a life with nothing to do with love affairs.

If she was an easy girl, like the ones that are often in contrived stories and games, if you handed anything of value over, even if she says, “E, I can’t take something like this,” she’ll accept it in the end and her feelings for you would soar. But Munami is used to the guys would pull that sort of thing, so even if she accepted it with a smile, that’s it for you.

“In this case, what a normal woman would be pleased with is something that’s moderately priced.”

“So it’s like that after all. I thought so as well, so I came here. I had heard a

rumor that when Hakkon-san hears of someone's wishes, he'll stock a new product that's somewhat suitable."

"A-, I've heard of that as well. Products and shape as well will change … This is only between you and me, but in the night business, at Shirley-san's place, the contraception-like thing that they use was provided from Hakkon-san."

So that was where the information leaked out from. At some point that urban legend, or community legend, rose to the surface. The time of the self-aware vending machine is now.

"Why don't you try it and request something from Hakkon-san. I'm also interested."

"That's true. Even if it's impossible, I won't be any worse off; Hakkon-san, did you hear about what we were talking about?"

"Welcome."

"Then the explanation will be quick. Is there some product suitable for a lady's birthday present?"

I've been thinking the entire time while I was listening, and there was only one thing that came to mind.

It's fine that the community became lively while in the middle of reconstruction, but, how should I say this, they don't really have a lot of extra to work with. It's not like they have a shortage of necessary goods, but the feeling that there's more and more than enough for leisure can't be imagined at all.

It might be ideal for hunters and merchants, but it's not a community where it's easy to flatter a girl. In that case, here is the new product that I can provide – –

"There's light … e, he changed his appearance again, *ne*. E, these are, flowers?"(merchant)

"You can't get such a splendid arrangement of flowers here. Since this level has a lot of wetlands *ne*. I have never seen such exquisite flowers before."(Goggai)

That's right, I'm a flower vending machine. I've changed into mostly glass walls

with many divisions, and in there flowers are lined up. And I can't stock them unless I've had experience buying them, so the variety of flowers that I've purchased for Mother's Day are carnations, roses, the bouquets you'd bring for visiting graves, and lilies.
By the way, I did have the experiences where my mother handed me some money right before I went to buy them.

Since it's in the midst of reconstruction, the things in town are buildingss and debris in droves. I don't remember seeing flowers at all. In such a community, if you hand over such colorful flowers, a woman who'd have ill feelings about it won't exist … I think.

"I see, so flowers. The price is also modest. This is perfect!"

"I believe Akoui-san likes white flowers. I will also purchase some."

The two bought flowers as they thought best. The young merchant bought bouquets. Goggai bought white lilies.
The appearance of two men holding bunches of flowers somehow give off a warm feeling, though it might just be me.

The two men with their hands full of flowers, looking sideways out of the corners of their eyes at the ground, embarrassed, bowed their heads and took their leave. If it goes well for both of them, that would be good. For a while, let's be attentive and try to gather information together.

"Hakkon, did you know?"

Several days have passed since then. It seems it's just before the usual winter comes, so the residents are in a hurry preparing to pass through the winter. I'm in my usual spot doing my sales, when Ramis suddenly asked that.
I have absolutely no idea what she's talking about, so I put out a "Too bad."

"Um, you see. Munami and Okami-san right now, they're in a tent doing their eatery, right? Right now, that place has become really popular with girls. Why do you think that is?"

Even if you say that, *na*. The information was so little that I'm troubled as to how to respond. For an eatery to become popular, the reason would be the taste, usually. But the part about it being popular with girls interests me.

Originally, since two women run the management, I've heard that female hunters and residents find it easy to come.
So that said, there must have been something that further meets the demands of female customers. I have no idea.

"Too bad."

"You wouldn't know, *ne*. Actually, in Munami's eatery, see, there's pretty flowers set up as decorations. And they're super super pretty flowers. Just looking at them soothes you –"

O-, the young merchant has come to buy them frequently since then so he often commuted from here to there. Oh yeah, several days ago when the money-exchanger Akoui-san came too, her sharp face was just a little softer. So the effect was immediate.
So Ramis like flowers. I saw the sparkle in her eye when she was telling me the story.
If that's the case, there's that, yeah.

"Wa-, wh,what happened, why did you change shape so suddenly … E-, these flowers, Hakkon is selling them?"

Now in flower vending mode, I brought out a pink carnation and dropped it down.

"Ee-, you're giving me one too!? Thanks Hakkon. I'll treasure it."

Hugging it, she happily spun around in circles. If she's going to be that happy with it, it was worth making it a present. Did you know, Ramis. In the flower language, the pink colored carnation means "gratitude".

---

1. getting along *too* well – literally, getting along at a degree that makes other people pull back a little (in disgust/awkwardness)

<T/n: Thank you RS and MF for your donations!
Ramis-chan, you're cute, but when I think about the fact that you're pouting about not being able to carry around a vending machine all day, you're also a

little terrifying.
Put who was talking in parentheses for ambiguous places, because there's usually no indicators other than one uses "boku" and the other "jibun" as their personal pronouns. Also, I figured people would actually like to know who ended up winning when they were trying to buy each other drinks.
Also, I have the prologue to a new VRMMO-themed original up as well. For the people that read my originals, give it a look-see.>

Threat

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Threat

There were four wall-mounted candle holders installed in this room.
In the middle of the gloomy room there was a enormous round table; surrounding that were 13 shadowy people lined up.
Silence reigned with no one opening their mouths in this place, when a single woman suddenly stood up.

“Everyone, thank you for gathering together. Our regular meeting will begin. The topic this time is of course – – THAT*yo*.”

At whatever suspicious thing the word THAT means, all present began to make a fuss.

“It can’t be; that THAT’s reach has extended this far.”

“Aa, we were careless.”

“If we don’t work out a counterplan, we’ll be wiped out in an instant.”

Dangerous words leaked out of their mouths one by one, and anguished groans were heard as well.
Whomever the thin light shone on, their faces were dark and lifeless feeling.

“Quiet down. Right now we’ll sum up all the information we know at present … if you would *yo*.”

The woman prompted her seated neighbor, a woman with an apron-skirt, maid-like get up, who now stood, opening the documents in her hand.

“Well then, THAT has captured 70% of this Dungeon’s level and has them under their control, supplying them. And this time, his reach has even come this far. We, as of now, must unite, or we will never be able to remove THAT. And so,

this time, as a trump card, we have called this gentleman in. Well then, would you give a statement?”

“Welcome.”

I, who was forced to participate in the assembly of all the owners of businesses in Seiryu[1] Lake Level’s community’s food and drink industry, can’t say anything other than this, you know.

This assembly commences three times a year on predetermined dates; they also talk about serious matters, but in general, they swap rumors and afterwards finish it with idle chit-chat.

However, this time it’s a special, hurriedly formed assembly, and all the members’ faces are tense without a smidgeon of room for error. Just by looking you can tell it’s a desperate situation; it’s honestly really uncomfortable.

“If there’s anything you’d like to add, Hakkon-san, you’re welcome to speak up at any time.”

Munami adding “-san” is really creepy. This person; so she’s the type to get really into her role, huh? She’s giving off the image of some high-ranking guy’s secretary.

“Let us continue the discussion. Currently, this community has a large amount of all sorts of people flooding in. Our population has swelled by about one hundred people, and right now they say that we’re close to five hundred residents.”

“Recently it’s become lively, *naa*.”

“Originally this should be something we’re happy about, but”

Because the community is experiencing a shortage of manpower due to the reconstruction work, if they don’t at least prepare the gate before the full brunt of winter hits, the people around will have a hard time getting in and out. At least we got the wall of spikes set up to defend us against enemies, what a relief; that’s the degree things are at.

“The people increased, so the food and drink business is delighted … is how it should be, but forget about that, THAT’s is going to make its move. With its goal

to dominate all of the Dungeon's food, the absolute strongest and the worst eatery – – the Chain Restaurant^{2}-!"

"Dammit, even though I thought I could finally make a profit because they're not here-!"

"As for me, even though I went to a different level, THAT's going to steal away all the food demand!"

While gazing at the food and drink merchants making a fuss like they're the protagonists of some tragedy, I piece together their discussion in my head.

So basically, in this dungeon, each level has its own community where people gather, and in each community there's a major food and drink shop that sets up a branch. In other words, it's a chain store.

Up until now, because the population hadn't even reached one hundred, they thought the profits would be weak, and so they hadn't touched this community. However, with seeing the recent population inflation, they decided that the time to rake in the profits was now.

It looks like the name of this big chain store is Chain Restaurant. For them to set up branch stores is an unthinkable ambition for other food and drink businesses; their food and drink is good of course, but with preserved foods and easily carried foods assembled as well, "Everything is served at Chain Restaurant" is their catchphrase.

Chain Restaurant gets resupplied directly from contracted farmers, so without the middle man, the possibility of making quality food for less is possible. The managers handle the transfers and connections with traders, they can get food transported for the lowest price possible; the price for the quality is at a situation where the ordinary eateries can't cross swords with them.
And so, Chain Restaurant establishing a branch shop in a community means that other eateries can only wait to be crushed.

This is a lot like a story from modern day Japan, *na*. A big store is erected, and all the shopping districts and small retailers all in a row are shut down; how many precedents have there been?

"THAT was aiming for this time of season, I bet. To prepare for winter, we are

all agonizing over the high price that our food dealings should be set at; this is the time they're waiting for. On THAT's side, they possess magic tools capable of storing large amounts of fresh food, so even though it's winter, they're able to continue offering the same food without changing."

In other words, the big store has something like a refrigerator, I guess.

Here, about 80% of the eateries are food stalls, so there's no way they'd have something like that. 'We need to restock our supplies, so today we're closed'; that's expected around here.

"And to prepare for the transfer, THAT's hand had most likely stretched far; they've begun blatantly raising the prices and stopping the supplies from coming. We are seriously being driven into a corner."

"Dammiiiit, does that mean we can only be destroyed-?!"

"I've got cute kids at home, you know. How am I supposed to get through the winter?"

Banging their fists on the table, the actions of the frustrated shopkeepers are – – like they're putting on a play. *Glance, glance*, they keep sneaking looks in my direction, *naa*.

I'm able to grasp the reason as to why they went so far to call me here to watch this farce. They're hoping I'll have countermeasures to help them fight back.

Frankly, for a vending machine, even if a big store shows up, it won't have much effect. I have the possibility of doing business 24 hours a day, and I can put out many products that Chain Restaurant can't copy. I'm pretty sure the method for freeze-dried noodles for cup ramen aren't possible for the otherworld inhabitants to do.

But you know, I like the residents here, and for Ramis' sake too, it wouldn't be any loss to be kind. This is also just in case there's ever a time I break down and become unusable, to secure a safe place for her.

Also, in my student days, there was a shop I liked that was run by an old couple, but the fact that a big store came and crushed them is a bitter memory; carrying out my revenge in another world doesn't sound too bad.

“And so, Hakkon-san, would you cooperate with us!? …If you lend a hand, then, once the inn is restored, Rammis’ lodgings will be half off.”

If I had a flesh and blood body, I would have reacted to that second half that Munami muttered. *U-n*, even if there wasn’t that negotiation I would have helped, but if Ramis can benefit, then my reasons for refusing have vanished.

“Welcome.”

“Thank you! Hakkon-san.”

“Oo-, if Hakkon cooperates with us, we’ll have the strength of a hundred people … no, a hundred boxes!”

“With this, we just might be able to make it somehow-!”

It’s fine to be all excited, but, *are*, this is a huge responsibility, *ne*. They’re kind of acting like they’ve already won, but what would they have done if I said I wasn’t going to help them at all, these people.
I want to heave a huge sigh, but since I can only say predetermined words, I quietly withstood it.

—

“So this is Chain Restaurant. I heard the rumors, but it’s really splendid-looking*, ne*.”

“So, they finally got a branch even on this level.”

Ramis and Hyurumi have come to investigate the enemy together. Right now they’re in front of the shop but, as expected it’s not to the degree of a shopping mall, but looking at it from the point of this world, it rivals the Hunter Association in size.

The roof is dome-shaped, and looks to be one story. With most curved wood panels set in, it’s a round-shaped shop. It’s a very conspicuous design in this community.

The entrance’s door is big; shop-workers wearing coats close to primary-color yellow are yelling in loud voices trying to draw in customers.

“Welcome, welcome. If you want food, we offer everything; delicious, cheap, and convenient, you’ll want to get to know Chain Restaurant! We’re Chain

Restaurant! In commemoration of opening day, right now we're offering our products for, guess what, half-price, yes half-price!"

Somehow, it's a very nostalgic atmosphere. If it was Japan, you'd see this spectacle more than enough, but in the other world it's different; it's rare, so the flood of people entering the interior shop doesn't stop.

It's prospering quite well. It's well-known name and success also give it some influence. For new people who've arrived at the community, I understand their feelings of being able to order whatever they want here instead of going to a small store.

"Oh my oh my oh my. Well well well well, could this be spying on the enemy?"

The slender man who had been touting customers, while rubbing his hands together, stepped up. The smile that clings to his face looks like a really shady smile.

"Eh, how did he know we're spying?"

"Ramis … your back, your back."

Hitting her hand on her forehead, Hyurumi shook her head tiredly.
Well, yeah, carrying me on her back, anyone would figure it out. Does she have no awareness of how it stands out?

"So this is Hakkon, the magic tool that has a will. Our president was also interested, *ne*. How about it, would you work for us? You can expect good treatment."

What an unexpected recruitment. It doesn't feel like he's joking, *na*, his eyes aren't laughing at all. It seems like they want to make me, who's their greatest existing hindrance, a companion, and draw me over to their side as soon as possible.

"Hakkon doesn't have any interest in working at a place like this. Because he's always going to be with me, *ne*. Right, Hakkon?"

"Welcome."

"Seeeee?"

And exactly why is Ramis puffing out her chest and making a 'so there' face?

But, *maa*, since I reincarnated in another world, a regular, stable workplace is something I honestly have no interest in. And besides, if I work here, then I wouldn't be any different from a vending machine in front of a supermarket.

"That is a shame. *Maa*, in several months, you will probably come to us yourself. Then, we're quite busy, so excuse me."

I will come to them myself? Exactly what is he saying, this person.

I thought the two people would go home now that the tension has dropped, but acting like it wouldn't do if they didn't do something, they entered the shop carrying me.

With an entrance so big that it's no problem to enter with a vending machine, the interior is a spacious area without any other walls. The right side is for selling goods, huh. They're offering dried meat and other foods that will last a long time. It's mostly products aimed at Hunters.

In the center, there's a counter stretched out facing the left; on the inside, there's the kitchen. There, it's the kind where you give your order and receive your food.

There's also long tables lined up, with chairs set at even intervals. It looks like a food court like system.

Ramis got a pasta with meat and yellow-green colored vegetables in it. Hyurumi requested bread and a white fish meuniere-looking thing.

The impression from looking at both dishes is that it looks good, but it's all normal food you'd find in an eatery; there isn't anything particularly different that makes an impression.

"*N*-, it's pretty normal tasting, *ne*."

"Aa, it be like, at the level you can guess its taste."

The two girls, with no special impressions, disinterestedly eat. If you don't really have a palette for taste, it would be hard to compare flavors so it would appear delicious. However, the joy that comes when you eat it is absolutely not there. Though when they ate my products, the two of them were so delighted.

"It's good, but, what is it. It's normal, *ne*."

“It’s ‘cause we so used to Hakkon’s food, this ain’t got the surprise or the excitement, *na*. It just normal good.”

I get it. Chain stores are things that don’t go above a certain level of artistry for taste.

Because they have to avoid displeasing everyone they cater to, they don’t aim for 100 points, they aim for taste that’s at least 70 points. It’s not like that’s bad. No matter what store, they have to aim for uniform taste, and they can’t do any flavoring that’s complex and takes too much time and effort. And since they sell at a low price, they’re limited on what ingredients they can use too.
And as a bonus, flavorings are expensive, so in this world the basics are salty or not-so-salty.
Right there is a weakness we might be able to break through in.
It also feels like their very typical menu limits them. *Fumu fumu*, I believe I’ve caught the tail of the solution.

---

1. I have decided to translate this level in the dungeon as either Seiryu Lake or Clear-Stream Lake (seiryu meaning clear stream). Should I translate this proper noun or leave it in Japanese? I have equal like and dislike for either.
2. While I could have translated the restaurant name (Kusari Shokudo) to Chain Eatery or Chain Cafeteria or something, I have a fondness for Japanese-style puns, and I am sticking to Chain Restaurant, because it’s SO RARE for Japanese-style puns to be easily translated 1 for 1. I am totally sticking behind this awe~~some~~ful decision.

<T/N: There are times when I finish, lean back, and wonder, “What the hell did I just translate?” This was one of them.
The owners of small mom-and-pop restaurants are all banding together to fight off a chain restaurant with the help of a vending machine.
…. … … and yet somehow this all makes perfect sense in context.
Just for context, though it’s only a thin reference in THIS story, in a Japanese story, a merchant rubbing his hands together for no reason is a characteristic of shady merchants. Of course, an author might use that as a red herring to make

you THINK he’s shady, but it still stands that the action of rubbing your hands together is supposed to make you instantly think of a greedy, shady person obsessed with profits above all else. >

Overthrow, Chain Restaurant!

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Overthrow, Chain Restaurant!

“Now then, the second great Overthrow, Chain Restaurant’s Annihilation meeting will begin!”

“Uoooooo-!”

To keep up with the overly-worked up men, the embarrassed way the female shopkeepers, who weren’t riding that wave of enthusiasm, raised their fists in the air was pretty moe.
Today, like the previous time, they have the same representative . So it looks like Munami was decided to be the advance leader.

The location is inside the tent that is the inn’s Okami-san’s temporary place of business. The tables and chairs are pretty much all up against the wall, so we have quite a bit of available space.

“This time, it’s about developing new menu items to oppose them. Everyone was told last time, so you’ve all brought samples, *ne*. Then, first, let’s try them.”

So saying, she placed the sample food on top of the round table; the shopkeepers went around tasting the flavors and exchanging opinions. Every one of them presented their food, but honestly, none of them really jumped out.

It’s at the degree where they just arranged existing dishes a little, so although I’m unable to taste it, just seeing the other peoples’ reaction tells me they aren’t fragrant.

“Well then, here we turn to the one who is participating this time as well, Hakkon-san. Do you have any advice? For example, what do you think about my new dish?”

The dish that was pushed in front of my eyes is something like pasta in a thick soup. It kind of looks like cream pasta, but the color isn't white, it's yellow.

"Uuum, Hakkon seems a little troubled, so if me and Hyurumi eat it and give you our impressions, would that work somehow?

"Welcome."

Aa, oh yeah. This time we have the special guests Ramis and Hyurumi participating. It's because they also wanted to get opinions from customers. If they can take my place and act as my tasters, that would help a lot.

"Hakkon said it was alright, so is it fine to eat it, Munami?"

"Yep yep, please do. Hyurumi too, go ahead, *ne*."

"I ain't got much confidence in my sense of taste, though, *na*."

The two people lifted the yellow soup pasta to their mouths. They chewed silently, the two wiped their mouths.

"*Un*, I think it's good. Just, the flavor's a bit thin? I thought the stock was meat-based, but the thickness seems to be from vegetables. If it was a bit stickier so it could stick to the pasta better it'd be better, I think."

"Yeah, it really is that kinda feeling. Wish the pasta was a bit stiffer, it wasn't boiled good. If ya make it so it would be ok if it soaked up the soup some, I think it would be easier to eat."

Well aren't the two of their opinions precise together? Ramis has pride in her home-cooking, and it looks like it's not a lie that Hyurumi has a sense of taste comparable to the best chef. I wonder if it's because she's been eating this kind of stuff since she was born, and it all compounded within her to give her that tongue.

"Ha,hang on a sec. Let me take notes. Uum, Hakkon, what about you?"

The excited Munami came back to me. My opinion … so what other improvements other than the two girls' that I can think of, huh? A- , if it's a cream-type, heavy pasta, how about this, white cream pasta.

I also have canned soup pasta, but since the noodles have the pre-requisite to be able to sit in the soup for a long time, they use something that's different

from regular pasta, so it can only make for a weak reference at best.

And so, the pasta I put out is a pasta they sell specifically on vending machines on ferries. It's got the soup and the pasta separate, so you have to cut open the sealed pouch and mix it in yourself, but I remember the flavor being pretty good.

"Fuwa-, this is, pasta and a bag? Uum, it's hot, but I'm going to have to open the seal. Looks like there's a picture of scissors drawn on here, so cut it off here and pour the contents over …could this be white mushrooms and smoked meat? The taste is … *nngu-*, delicious! It has a distinct, deep flavor and a thickness to the consistency. This is milk from an animal, *ne*. *Un, un*, if that's how it is …"

It seems like, because of the reference, she headed towards the kitchen with the notes in hand.

Seeing her go off like that, the shopkeepers all surrounded us at once, and it became a situation where the two girls were given prototype after prototype to sample.

For the shopkeeper whose pride was hot soups, I put out tonjiru (pork miso soup with veggies), shijimijiru (stewed clam soup), and miso soup. It doesn't look like miso exists, but it looks like it stimulated the shopkeeper's inspiration, and he nodded many times.

It looks like the two female twins offer sweets, so I put out the crepes in a clear bottle that I ate at Kagoshima. These vending machine crepes are quite locally famous, so there's quite the abundance of types and they are quite good.

Since crepes are quite popular among women, it will probably be received well by the girls who work at the very erotic Shirley-san's shop. If they set up a street stall near there, they'll be able to make quite a bit, it seems.

Like that, with me presenting food that matched each shop's specialty, and them taking notes while listening to the two girls' advice, with this and that the development of the new menu items began from there. Alright, now, from here on, it's business.

"*Are*, Hakkon changed shape again, but this is … eggs?"

That's right, this time I changed to an egg vending machine. Actually, egg vending machines are surprisingly popular, so you can see quite a few of them in

various places.

Since it looks like securing ingredients isn't going well, the eggs sold like they were leaping out from me. Furthermore, when I switched to a vending machine that sold a lot of vegetables you could find in the area, once again the shopkeepers scrambled to buy them.

With the soup pasta and crepe requiring it, of course I also sold milk. It's just, since I hadn't come across a vending machine that sold raw meat, there was nothing I could do about that. Probably, the food and health committee had some problems with that, to it's not something you can do in Japan. Let's have the Hunters do their best for meat.

I kept the prices reasonable. The ingredients sales were very popular with the food and drink shopkeepers, so it was decided to secure a time just once a week to sell ingredients. They begged for at least during the period of winter, and so we came to an agreement.

It's been three days since then, and today is the day that the food and drink shopkeepers decided to all come out in revolt.

Starting from today, the food and drink shops will be limiting themselves to making food during sales hours in order to boost their activities. They also chose beverages that would match their new menus.
The fight is up through Chain Restaurant's one month opening sale. During this period, while it prevents an over-flooding of customers, is the time to grasp their stomachs tightly.

If Chain Restaurant comes to the decision that they cannot make a profit, they're famous for immediately withdrawing; if the sales during their opening sale is bad, then the possibility that they'll withdraw their branch from Seiryu's lake shore is very high.

I've done all I can, so now it's just waiting for the result. I've been placed in a spot where I can see each store well, so today I'll take my time observing all day. In the morning each store was busy preparing, and it was right before lunchtime when all the activity began at once.

"From today we have a new menu! Zyugiuma fried to a crisp, a delicacy popular with young folks! Come on, try it out!"

“Meat with its flavor sealed inside is a supreme dish. The flavor here is something you can’t taste anywhere else *yo*-“

“After eating something strongly flavored, how about gentle sweetness from a cute sweet-? The fruit for its filling is free for you to choose-“

Raising loud voices, each and every one of the street stall shopkeepers began calling out.

Chain Restaurant’s branch had been here for over two weeks; it’s the time around when the customers have tried just about every flavor of the food before their eyes, so the stalls chose products that haven’t been seen or heard of before.

And, pretty much all of the food the stalls chose are what some people would customarily call junk food. It’s stuff whose nutritional balance is poor and calories are high, but if you’re comparing this world’s people to modern Japan’s, the calorie consumption is on another level.

In the first place, this is a world where you can’t thoughtlessly ingesting vegetables when you’re in the midst of winter is the norm; worrying about that in itself is wrong. In this season, if you put in vegetables and hike up the price, saying, “We thought of the nutritional value and put in vegetables. That’s why the price went up,” your customers won’t come.

The stall that’s selling hamburgers just has lettuce alone sandwiched in, but it’s at the degree that it’s getting praised for being a luxury despite being cheap.

For a street stall, once you put out your food, you shouldn’t overlap with others, but in this place, kara’age (nuggets of fried chicken) is selling the best. Next would be hamburgers, and then something like takoyaki(octopus chunks covered in batter and rolled into balls, then grilled in a special pan). There’s no octopus, so they put in some meat. I provided the takoyaki sauce. It’s something that’s normally sold in vending machines, so I bought it many times when I was still alive.

Right in front of the Hunter Association is the stretch of street stalls; with the Hunters who just finished a request and warmed their purses buying it right there on the spot, this location has become quite the plus. Chain Restaurant needs a large plot of land, so they built their store in a place a little bit further

away. It's the cold winter season, so the people who feel that moving over there is troublesome are many.

And then, the steam rising from the stalls brings a smell that tickles the appetite. Being able to withstand this temptation is probably rare. The flavors have been checked by Ramis and Hyurumi, and were completed with pride, so the shopkeepers are brimming with confidence.

"This, what is that?"

A single Hunter standing and eating at a food stall tilted his head as the shopkeeper passed him a business-card-sized card.

"This is, when you buy an item, a stamp is put on it. When it's all filled out, you'll be given a discount of 1 silver coin."

"*Hee-*, interesting. Eh, is it okay if it's not just this store?"

"Yes, for any store with the picture of this card in front of it, it's fine."

This as well is the secret plan part two. We're introducing point cards. The participating stores are, of course, the food and beverage shops managed by the shopkeepers that participated in that meeting.

How did these guys think of this point card? The trigger was definitely me. A vending machine where you insert a card and save points, nowadays it's not so rare.

And, from the manufacturer, there are also products that take point cards; when I took this Function, actually I had to drop the cards for them to be understood.

Maa, the shopkeepers didn't understand the reason at all, but Hyurumi understood how to use it, so she taught them. Hyurumi's powers of understanding really helped.

With my offhand knowledge and the two girls' advice, Seiyru Lake level's food and drink businesses were revived as a result, and they've become quite superior. It's at the degree where the things they've never seen before stops the customers and draws them in, but that's fine. As long as we can remain superior for a short time, Chain Restaurant will retreat.

Lunch was our overwhelming superiority; the frustrated glares from the people from Chain Restaurant who came to investigate made quite the impression.

The cold in the evening was quite harsh, so the street stalls quickly closed up shop early, but since the shops that were using point cards were advertised for at noon, people kept flooding into the temporary inn tent and other stores that use point cards.

Different from lunchtime, it's soup and stir-fried items with vegetables, but since it's provided at low costs, it's popular among the people who ate heavy things during the day and elderly women.

Of course, the reason they were able to make it low-priced is because I set my prices at the bare minimum. Even so, I didn't occur any point loss. When Chain Restaurant withdraws, the food and beverage stores will become my rivals so it might be like sending salt to the enemy[1], but that's fine too.

Ramis still seems to have great hopes to succeed as a Hunter. Right now the community's reconstruction takes precedence, but once the winter's over, I think she will be starting Hunter activities again. Then, if the community's food situation stabilizes, even as people gather, the community's prosperity won't decline.

And, Ramis is very reserved when it comes to me. I want the community to be in a situation where it doesn't need me, so we can break through the situation where she finds it difficult to move around from the community.

Well, *maa*, it looks like I'm thinking about a lot of things, but my real intentions are … after all this time, I've been transported to another world so I'd like to look around; I want to really experience being in another world

Uotto, costumers came. First things first, I have to do the working of a vending machine.

"Welco me."

"Yo-, Hakkon. I have something pretty interesting. Let's bond as guys … you're a guy, right? *Maa*, right now, that doesn't really matter. I have something I want to consult with you about."

Seeing Leader Keryoil's always frivolous expression, the foreboding I have

triggers the warning bells in my mind and they won't stop ringing.

---

1. sending salt to the enemy – playing fair and square without taking advantage of your enemy's weakness. So Hakkon's basically saying, I didn't take advantage of people who will eventually become my rivals once the Chain Restaurant leaves even though this would have been a good chance to.
   I'm a little braindead, didn't want to try to figure out how to switch it around to make sense in text while still sounding like an idiom.

<T/n: Thank you JW and Michael C for your donations!
I was curious about what was going to happen… OVRMMO coming next…>

Expedition and Bargaining

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Expedition and Bargaining

“It’s fine if it’s after winter passes, but do you guys have any interest in joining us on an expedition?”

At Leader Keryoil’s sudden request, I take a single breath and,

“Too bad.”

Is how I responded. That request was basically what I expected, so there was no need to be confused.

If I go, that means Ramis will get dragged along too as part of a set. Making the decision all on my own isn’t a good circumstance. I’ll leave her decision to herself.

“Like always, you give an immediate answer, Hakkon. *Naa*, could it be, you don’t like me?”

“Welcome.”

“You … if you treat your frequent customers well, they’ll keep coming, *daze*. And also, I didn’t really want to say it, but when they were going to go ahead and rescue you, we volunteered, though, *na*-. And it’s not like we’re saying you should return the favor, though, but when we rescued Hakkon, some of my brigade members became casualties, though, *na*-. Oh no, it’s not like we’re expecting you to do this because of that; that’s totally not it at all, though -.”

Certainly, as the Leader says, I do owe the Fools of Whimsy Brigade. I’ll acknowledge that over and over, but I’m no good with Leader Keryoil’s shady demeanor. It’s purely speculation, but he feels like someone who can betray

others with a smile, this person.

But you know, what this opponent has said is completely true. Thanks to the Fools of Whimsy Brigade lending their strength, they were able to easily destroy the thief band.

“Welcome.”

“O, you’re beginning to open your heart up a little. *Maa*, this is something we should discuss with Ramis too, *na*. We’ve got time until the snow melts. Think about it at your leisure.”

So saying, Leader Keryoil stood. There’s no meaning for me to mull it over here and there in my head. Whatever Ramis wants to do, that’s what we’ll do.

-tte, right now is the brawl with Chain Restaurant. That night has advanced, and it looks like each store is closing for the night. If you compare it to several days prior, no matter which store, I think all of them had three times the customers entering, even guessing on the light side. It’s probably fine to say it’s a great success. If we can keep this up for two weeks, there’s hope.

Let’s just forget about the Leader’s talk for now; I need to concentrate.

From there, fame called upon fame, and every single day the customers increased; even after two weeks had passed, most of the customers came back.

These several days, the days where snow fell from dusk through the evening were many; since it’s closer than the residential areas, the Hunters and people who were trying to keep warm around the food and drink stalls increased, just about.

Once Chain Restaurant had been open for a month, they quickly and easily withdrew from Seiryu Lake Level’s community. This resolute way of knowing when to quit is very much like a large chain store, but it’s fitting. Honestly, it feels like we dodged a bullet.[1]

Though, since the shopkeepers are pleased, it’s not like I’m displeased. With such a splendid retreat, I doubt that there’s a hidden agenda to it. Whatever the case, we are now facing spring; once we enter the season of the Hunters’ activities, the uneasiness will probably disappear.

Oh, that's right, once it becomes spring, although I said I didn't want to accompany the Fools of Whimsy Brigade on their expedition in response to the invitation, the result of discussing it with Ramis is that we'll take it.

Their expedition is a round-trip that will take two weeks regardless of how it turns out; the object is to scout out a certain monster, as well as subjugation if they are able to.

When we met up to talk about deciding whether to join up, it was Ramis, me, and Hyurumi as well. Since the subject is something you don't want to let people hear, I intruded into the tent that the two childhood friends are borrowing.

"Speaking of the Fools of Whimsy Brigade, they super famous. And they be asking you to join them; it's a happy thing, but … 's it really ok?"

"*U-n*, Leader-san said if I'm afraid to fight, then it's ok if I just carry Hakkon, but I want to fight. It's not like I like fighting, but if I keep passing every time, I'll never get stronger, so."

Clenching her fist tightly, Ramis' side-profile became very serious compared to her usual face, so it was a little bit scary.

I'm close to her, so even if she keeps her strong ambitions to herself, I understand just by looking. As for why she wants to get stronger, I understand the origin is the story Hyurumi told me about what happened to their hometown, but doing it just because of that …

"Ramis. You, you're really – – you want to get revenge?"

"*Un*. If I don't kill that guy who attacked our village that day, I'll never be able to forgive myself-!"

For a dangerous word like 'kill' to come flying from Ramis' mouth, the parts inside me raised up a strange noise. At the time when I was abducted her anger was also exposed, but seeing her eyes filled with murderous intent, it's like my heat insulation effect was broken.
Since the story was that monsters destroyed the village, "that guy" must be the monsters' chief, I guess.

"So that means Ramis saw him, that dude controlling the monsters."

“That guy was, that man was, while controlling the monsters, he was smiling! When he killed Ma and Pa, like he was having fun, he was laughing-!”

Slamming her fist down, she drilled a hole into the ground; it was buried up to the wrist.

So the reason she continued to do the Hunter business she wasn’t suited for has come to the surface at last. It’s not like revenge will bring the dead people back, and there are probably people who’d say it’s a futile deed.

I’m not in a position to be able to say such pretty words, since I’ve never gone through such an experience. If I were to say something naive, I’d like her to throw away those savage thoughts and just continue to do the work of a Hunter.

But you know, the only person who understands her feelings is the person herself. I can sympathize with her, but fully comprehending it is something I can’t do. Then, until her intent runs out, I want to support her. For that reason, I, as a vending machine, have no intentions of slacking off on my assistance.

“Then, whatever I gots to say is useless. If it’s the Fools of Whimsy Brigade, I ain’t interacted with them myself, so I got no choice but to trust them. And now, you got a trusty pal with ya.”

With her mouth taking the shape of a smile, in response to Hyurumi’s flirtatious glance, I responded “Welcome” with all my heart. Although it’s a recording, so I have my doubts to whether the feeling was transmitted.

“Thanks for worrying, Hyurumi. Hakkon too, thank you, *na*.”

Ashamed of losing her cool, she shyly scratched her head. I can keep up a <Barrier> limited to her stature to protect her, but I probably won’t be able to do anything else to help in a fight.

Since I absorbed a good portion of the coins stashed away by the thief gang, my points have become something amazing, but it’s not to the degree I can learn another Divine Blessing. If, just it, I had just enough points, even then I’d like to have some more for buffer, since you never know what could happen. That’s what’s been ingrained into my body from the previous abduction incident.

If I was going to get an ability, it’d probably be enough for one Function. There’s a lot of candidates, but the point consumption isn’t normal, so I haven’t

been able to come to a decision. After pouring in several tens of thousands of points, if it doesn't match up to my expectations, I'd be so down that I wouldn't be able to come back for quite a while.

"Whoo, whoo, let's stop thinking about it. And it's not spring yet, so we gots lotsa time. Or like, it's late so let's sleep. You got rubble removal work waiting for you tomorrow, starting from the morning, right?"

"*Un*. Ok, then let's sleep! A, Hakkon, it's ok if you sleep in the tent here today, right?"

"To sleep with us two beauties is the best, right?"

It certainly is the best, but I don't have a flesh and blood body. There's no chance of making 'mistakes'.

Looking the tent over again, even though I take up a lot of space, I'm not a hindrance, the tent is that spacious. In the center portion of the round tent is a single support stuck in the ceiling portion; it' quite steadfast and proper for people to live in.

Inside are wardrobes and beds, two each. A large, wooden table with a sturdy-looking tabletop. And then there are small tools and magic tool-looking parts scattered around. Those are without a doubt Hyurumi's.

For two girls living together, it's a stark room, but on top of the table a carnation was left, just barely turning it a little girl-ish. I'm really glad I gave it to her.

"A, since Hakkon gave it to me, I'm taking good care of the flower, *ne*."

"*Hee*, so you gave only Ramis something. *A*-, even though it was my birthday three days ago *na*-. That's right, this year I didn't get nothing, *naa*-"

"*Aa*-! Sorry, I completely forgot. Tomorrow, let's go eat something really good, okay?"

"Thankya, Ramis. So then, ain't Hakkon gonna do something?"

She's probably half-joking, but her knowledge has helped me out a lot, and from here on I'd like her to continue lending me her strength. A product that would suit her; actually, I've already decided what it would be.

It’s just, in order to avoid other people catching on getting it to get up to no good, I’ve been waiting for the chance to give it to her so surrounding people won’t notice. And so, this situation is just perfect.

“Juuuuuust kidding. It’s a joke, so don’t take it … ooooooo-! Th,this is-!”

Hyurumi grabbed the me who changed into a red and white, long and narrow body almost as if she was hugging me. The pupils of her eyes were blazing, and from her mouth was repeated, raspy breaths.
Your eyes are terrifying, your eyes are terrifying! I thought she was going to bite me, that’s how her reaction looks.

“On the other side of the glass there’s a lot of tools, *ne*. A, it’s all stuff Hyurumi just loves.”

Right, this time I’m a small tools vending machine. The items are; safety glasses, mask, tape measure, gloves, an 8-setting screw driver, and a water-repellant nylon jacket.

It’s a vending machine that specializes in small tools, so the quality is also good, and for the gloves, they have antibacterial and anti-odor treatment, are processed to allow air-ventilation, and have anti-slip added. When Hyurumi saw them, it was like she was going to grow an extra arm to grab them, that’s how badly she wanted such a prize.

“H, how much is the price?! Ramis, if I don’t got enough, lend some to me!”

“E, a, un.”

Her eyes drawing close to being bloodshot, Hyurumi’s intensity was overpowering. I understand that these types of items would sell with the craftsmen, but I’m troubled over where to draw the line when it comes to producing an outbreak of technology. That’s why, as a general rule, I only deal with things that will be consumed with nothing left.
I believe Hyurumi won’t misuse them, so that’s why I’m not reluctant to offer them to her.
She’s counting all the money she has on hand, but this time it’s supposed to be a birthday present, so I have no intentions on taking a fee.

I dropped all the products together, and she lifted everything to the sky,

leaking out a “Ooooooooooo!” A, Ramis backed up a little.[2]

“Hakkon, is this seriously ok, to give them to me-!”

“Welcome.”

“Thanks, I love you-!”

Hyurumi, overwhelmed with emotions, kissed my glass, then retreated and lined up the small tools on the desk to try them out … –tte, that surprised me-. To think she even kissed me. At times like these, not having a sense of feeling is tough, *na*. *M,maa,* it’s not a bad atmosphere, though.

“Hakkon, you look happy…”

Exactly what are you trying to say, Ramis-san? And exactly why are you glaring at me with narrowed eyes, I wonder?

“*Muu-.*”

Even when she’s puffing out her cheeks and pouting, her face is still quite cute, or like, this isn’t the time for that.

After that, in order to bring back Ramis’ good humor, I gave her this and that of products that she’d like, but she was still pouty for an entire day.

---

1. of course it doesn’t actually say bullet. The literal is “Feels like we dodge what we would have taken on”
2. A subtle way of saying, Ramis was getting a li-ttle creeped out by Hyurumi’s actions. “took some distance” is often used in this way in Japanese.

<T/n: Thanks ‘someone’ for your donation!
Hello sassypants vending machine … it’s been a while since he’s been so blatantly cheeky with someone. And I love that Keryoil’s never actually done anything to make Hakkon dislike him. Hakkon just … doesn’t like him just because.
Also, because the kana indicates “Rammis” as opposed to “Ramis”, I’ve been typing it out as Rammis a lot. I try to keep it the same as the prev translator (and it looks cuter as Ramis), but my typing fingers can … have a mind of their own.

Just letting you know, if I accidentally left a Rammis in somewhere, it’s Ramis. >

Canned Oden

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Canned Oden

The winter at Seiryu's lakeside is quite harsh; it's not quite to the degree of Japan's snowy areas, but there's regularly about 5 cms of snow piling up. Any more than this and it's possible the accumulated snow will crush the tents, so it's seldom that more than 1 meter of snow accumulates … I hope.

It appears that the monsters on this level hibernate deep underground for the winter and the commissions for the Hunters to subjugate them or collect materials from them are rare, so it's standard to just hole-up in the community, is what the gatekeeper Karios revealed while eating oden.

It's just, this year there's the reconstruction work, so there's no lack of work to go around the community; the Hunters who would normally migrate to other levels when winter comes have stayed here. That's what the young shopkeeper, milk tea in one hand, told me happily.

As usual, I'm carried by Ramis to a particular spot during construction work, and in the evening I'm selling goods in front of the Hunter Association.

Before the time the food stalls close shop I only put up beverages, and after that I line up food; that's the pattern I use. I understand that the air outside is cold, but I don't have the function to feel temperature, so I don't suffer at all.

A-, I'm also fine not adding a function to sense atmospheric temperature. Within the types called the next-generation in vending machines, there's also those that measure atmospheric temperature and will suggest products based on that.

"*U-*, it's so cold, it's so cold. Soup and stew, stew."

There are few people who would come buy products out of curiosity in this violently blowing cold wind in the night. From this voice I've become accustomed to and seeing the current situation, there's no doubt that's the gatekeeper, Karios.

"Gols, what are you gonna get today?"

"Sweet tea."

"You always get that."

"You always get the stewed skewers too."

So today it's Karios and Gols who are in charge of the gates. Thank you for your hard work in this cold weather.
After the two of them bought hot products, they stuck them in their breast pockets and the pockets in their clothes for a while, and as a result of using them in place of hand warmers, they established the heat of the products a little.

"It's warm and toasty today too, *na*. Thanks, Hakkon."

"I give you my thanks."

"Thank you very much."

Knowing that I'm concerned about the temperature regulation, they always do this, so I give them my thanks.

Ever since I came to this community, right after Ramis, the people I exchange words with the most are probably these two. *Maa*, in general it's Karios that talks; me and Gols only make responsive interjections.

The backs of the two, rounded out with thick coats and collars stood up, disappeared into the darkness. Looking at them, I wanted to be situated closer to the gate, but I refuse to leave Ramis so I want to be able to see the girls' tents; I pass the night til morning at this fixed spot, and seldom move from it.

Every time I see those two off, I see something red enter the corner of my field of vision.
Aa, again, huh?

It's a single woman wearing a blood-red one-piece dress. So saying, it's not a short-sleeve dress, but a loose-fitting, long-sleeved, long-length dress; I think

she’s probably wearing thick clothes underneath.

Around her neck is wrapped a scarf that’s also completely red; her shoes and gloves too are both the same red tint. But as for that woman’s face, I can’t say much.

With long, black hair that stretches down her back, her bangs reach the tip of her nose. Her mouth, which is the only thing you can see, is also lacquered with bright red rouge.

Standing still in the middle of the night with clothes all one red color is an eerie woman. It wouldn’t be weird if this was a setting where you would normally let out a scream and run away, but I can’t move, and I don’t have a function to scream, either.
And anyway ––– I’ve gotten used to it.
This woman, she appears quite a lot, especially at night.

It’s already rare that I get customers at night, but with this outfit. Even if I don’t want to, I remember her. I think it’s dangerous for a woman to go walking around at night, but if you ask me whether or not there’s a person with enough courage to call out to this woman, I’d be a bit troubled for the answer.

Like always, she buys a can of oden, and then *su*- disappears into the darkness.

There’s a guy who’s been reincarnated as a vending machine here, so it wouldn’t be that weird if there were ghosts. However, that woman has substance, so she’s definitely living. Furthermore, the moment she takes the canned oden, her mouth floats into a smile. She might be a big oden maniac.

No matter what kind of person it is, the fact that she’s a customer doesn’t change. Furthermore, standing ––– no, set-up[1] like that in a place until no one’s around seems very sad and lonesome, so that calms me down.
Anyway, today seems cold as well, *na*.

—

“*Fuu*-, dammit, even in this blasted cold, we’re on guard all night …”

“Give it up.”

Today too, the bald-headed Karios and crew-cut Gols are on guard all night.

Although it's just among the community's guardsmen, they have quite the reputation, so on the nights that rare, dangerous monsters keep showing up, they're often put on rotation.

"So cooold. If I had another scarf to wrap up in, I'd feel better, *ze*."

"As always, it's an unpleasant color."

"*Hahn-*, I don't care about your opinion. My lucky color is red, see. A long time ago, a fortune-teller who often got things right told me that."

Honestly, I don't really know what to think about a grim-faced ossan wearing a bright-red scarf, but to each his own. It's the best for the concerned party if he wears things that he likes.

"Speaking of red, there's this rumor."

"*Aa*, the one about the woman in red, huh? Recently I've heard there's been a lot of people saying they've seen her late at night. If it's a harmful ghost, then they gotta exorcise it."

In this world, there are ghosts, the objects of fear, but they're existences that might need to be exterminated, huh? As expected of another world. These two people aren't showing frightened behavior at all.

That rumored ghost is, without a doubt, that woman. I also mistook her for a ghost at first, so I fully understand why there's that kind of rumor.

The two men took up their usual canned oden and milk tea in their hands, and quickly marched off in the direction of the gate. Right before the two's figures disappeared, the usual red-clothed woman cut into my field of vision.

It might be a little late, but I just realized the conditions for that woman's appearance. She always comes right after those two show up. And then, clasping the canned oden like that, she chases after those two in the direction of the gate and disappears.

As you would expect, with all this information laid before me, even I will suspect it. This red-clothed girl probably likes Karios. She buys his favorite canned oden, and she coordinates her entire outfit to the red color he said he likes.

That stalker-like mindset is scary, but she's just watching over him from afar so she doesn't mean any harm by it … probably.

As she motionlessly observes them, a strong, cold wind blows, and it disturbed her bangs. I gasped at the face that came into view under it.

Clear eyes and a well-shaped nose. Her expression with her cheeks dyed red is quite alluring to see. It was to the degree that I unconsciously used the vending machine security camera to record it.

"Karios-sama…"

Her voice, that I heard for the first time, is frail; the night wind drowned it out, but you can feel the heat of her feelings in it.

I'm certain that Karios doesn't have a lover or wife, *na*. If she goes for him pretty seriously I think he'd fall for her, but it doesn't look like this woman has the courage for that. And then there's the matter of his own tastes, so there's nothing I can do but warmly watch over her.

Clutching the canned oden, tottering after Karios, once again she walks off in the direction of the gate.

—

"Alright, today's my day off-! What should I do~."

Raising his voice, Karios stepped up, almost skipping with merriment, and appeared in front of me. It's the first time I've seen Karios in every-day wear, but, *maa*, it's pretty normal, *na*. It's just, the red scarf is too much; it would be best if he had an old masked hero's mask to go with it, it looks like.

"How about going to that tools store and getting some fixtures?"

It looks like Gols is going to guard after this, so he buys milk tea in his usual outfit.

"O-, th,that's true. Just like you said, I'll go to the tools store!"

Are, he's kind of *sowasowa* acting nervous. Staring at his reflection in the glass, he's checking that his clothes aren't out of order.
Seeing this, Gols let out a small "Fu-" laugh.

“O, okaaay, then what should I bring as a small gift … a-“

“A,ara, Karios-san.”

Seeing the woman coincidentally passing by, Karios’ back *pin-to* went ram-rod straight. As for the woman, with both her hands carrying bundles, she became petrified.

“Wh,what a coincidence. I was just about to go to the tools store, you know.”

“I,is that so. I’m also just about to return there. A-, that scarf is always a beautiful red, *ne*.”

“Really? I actually like red.”

Karios’ tone is uncomfortably polite. Despite the cold weather, the temple of his forehead is covered in sweat. It seems like he’s quite nervous.

The woman as well, her line of sight is all over the place, and her behavior is a little suspicious, *na*. *Are*, aren’t these two giving off kind of a good vibe – – A, that woman’s face … I’ve seen it somewhere. Her bangs are pushed back with a curved headband so it’s in plain view, but it’s that red-clothed woman. I have to bring up the picture from the security camera to match it, but there’s no doubt. *Are*-, could it be mutual love? What’s this, I had thought I’d give them my blessing, but for some reason, I’m kind of irritated.

“Karios, if you’re going to the tools store, then how about you take some of her stuff?”

Oo, nice follow-up, Gols.

“Th,that’s true. If you’re alright with it, would you let me carry your baggage?”

“Th, thank you very much.”

Receiving the stuff, the two of the walk away shoulder to shoulder. Watching their backs, Gols heaved a large sigh.

“Good grief, they should hurry up and get together already.”

“Welcome.”

I think so too. I voice my agreement to Gols.

—

Late at night, as the same two guys take their leave from in front of the vending machine, once again the red-colored woman – – the tools store's shop attendant made her appearance. As always she clutched the canned oden, watching Karios' back.

"Karios-sama. How should I convey these feelings?"

She is definitely a maiden in love.

According to Gols, previously in the community, there were some Hunters with nasty behavior that tried to drag her off somewhere in the dark, and it seems like Karios saved her.

With that as a trigger, somehow or other, before he knew it, he had seriously fallen for her. With his over-excited personality as a bad habit, and the woman seeming to be a late bloomer, he was unable to take the first step and it dragged on and on until it reached the situation they're in now.

The tools store girl too, she seems to have become aware of Karios ever since the previous incident; Gols, watching from close by, wants to think of something to fix this irritating relationship.

U-n, a chance, huh. Calling out to the man would be the best, but in front of that stern face, that girl will be too nervous so she won't be able to speak well. That said, if she had an excuse to approach him then … *naa,* there's that, isn't there?

"*Haa*, today as well, I'm wrapped up in your favorite red, but I can only look after your figure from behind … *e*-"

Ignoring the girl who began to talk to herself, I changed my body. It's the vending machine I was when I offered vegetables to the food and beverage stall owners.

"These are vegetables?"

Tilting her head in front of the daikon I'm offering, the girl opened the glass lid to the locker.

"A, e, is it ok to take this?"

"Welcome."

Confirming the girl timidly took the daikon, now I change into egg-selling mode. And then, like before, I offer one pack of eggs.

Next, this time I drop down chikuwa (fish-paste cake). It might be a little late to say this, but the wealth of vending machine products is surprising. This is something that I found in a certain parking-lot.

And then, lastly, I returned to the usual vending machine mode, it's a bit out there, but it's a product I like. It's flying fish soup stock in a plastic bottle.

This was something I discovered in vending machines in Osaka, but the flying fish made it a bit expensive ––– in other words, there's a single, whole flying fish stuck in there.

"U,um, er, to have received so many things, um, what should I do with them?"

For my last act, I drop down a canned oden. Seeing that, the woman's eyes went wide and she stared at me. Looks like she realized it.

"You mean, these ingredients, they're to make this stew, *ne*-."

"Welcome."

"Th,thank you so much! With this, I can make that person notice me!"

Understanding everything, the girl bowed her head towards me many times, then rushed away in a directions different than the usual gate's direction. Seeing her earnestness, I hope it will go well, but thinking that Karios' spring has finally come, I think it can't be helped that I'm irritated.

—

"Gols, Hakkon, love is so wonderful! It's like every day is sparkling! A, that's right, it was yesterday. She made me her home-cooking again, and it was so good."

A few days later, the girl made oden and invited Karios for a meal; with that as a chance, the two soon became lovers. And from then on, every day, me and Gols were subjected to listening to his fond love-talks about her.

Gols, with a face of absolute boredom from the bottom of his heart, is shooting cold stares at him, but Karios completely doesn't realize it. Over and over and over; the fact that he doesn't get tired of talking about her is the only

thing I can praise him for. Once it's past a little bit, it becomes an annoyance. I am beginning to regret mediating their relationship a little.

"And so that's how it is. A, it's almost time to change watch guards. Then, I'll buy my usual. It's not as good as her home-cooking, but this is delicious in it's own right!"

With a merry tone, like always, Karios bought the canned oden and I dropped it for him.

"*Hi-a-!* Cooold! Wh,what the, Hakkon, it's not hot, *zo*!"

Keh-. It's chilled oden, eat up.

---

1. The raws use counter words; "one (person) – no, one (inanimate object like a table)". I have done my best.

<t/n: Thank you Moon for your donation!
Gols + Hakkon = best wingman tagteam. And cheeky, bitter Hakkon is the best.>

Spring is Coming

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Spring is Coming

“Karios-san, your collar is crooked.”

“O,ou, thanks. I think I’m going to be coming home late, so even though it’ll be a bit lonely, don’t cry.”

“Ok. I’ll be waiting for you with the stew you like with a lot of eggs in it. Really, REALLY try not to get hurt.”

“It hurts so bad to leave you behind, that it feels like my body’s being torn in two … but this is work. Sorry.”

“Yes, I don’t want to be apart from you either. But I also don’t want to be a hindrance in your work. I’ll swallow my tears – -“

They just don’t cut it out. Day in and day out, everyday this foolish looking couple mess around in front of the vending machine.

Isn’t his partner, Gols, putting his hand to his forehead like it hurts? Since the two of them guard the gate often, I bet he has to listen to the meandering love stories. Poor guy.

“Munami-san, today’s beautiful too, isn’t it? Recently the sun’s rays have gotten warm, it’s the perfect weather for a walk.”

“Isn’t it? Is your shop going to be okay today?”

And another troublesome group has come. The shopkeeper young man and Munami, who calls herself the inn’s poster girl. This group hasn’t quite gotten to the dating stage, but since Munami isn’t talking to him like she does to guests, more like talking to a friend, compared to before, they’ve gotten considerably

closer.

And, for some reason, the full set starts chatting in front of me. Haa, just when I was thinking that the temperature's been rising so spring's about to come, I've become a gathering place for people with their "spring" in full-bloom.[1]

Ah, it's spring, *ne*. But it's not like things will settle down with that. Pretty soon it's going to be the season where Hunters get lively. That's right, there's the promise Ramis made to participate in the Fools of Whimsy Brigade's expedition – –

"Hakkon, are you in good shape?"

"Ou, lookin' like it's selling well today too. It be warm today, so let's go with that cold, bubbly stuff."

Well speak of the devil. Ramis and Hyurumi have come.

The couples, like always, have disappeared somewhere before I know it. It's fine if they're getting along, but seriously, I wish they'd go somewhere else. I don't have a flesh and blood body, so I have nothing to do with love affairs. It's not like I'm j,jealous or something. This time, in honor of their relationships, I'll give them a present of hot soda.

"Hakkon, we're leaving tomorrow, so are you going to be ok?"

"Welcome."

I've known about it way ahead of time, so I don't really have an excuse to decline.

It's not like I'm not worried, but this girl yearns to get stronger. She and I have a one-body-one-mind kind of relationship. We can only help each other by compensating for the other's weak points.

Ah, well, I said it so nicely, but I'm the one who has the most deficiencies. Since I don't have hands or feet, *nee*. I'm always being taken care of by her.

"That so, it be tomorrow, huh? The thing you was talking about, going with the Fools of Whimsy Brigade."

"Yeah, Hyurumi. Uum, I think, it's surveying the situation with the gakujinma (alligator-men monsters).

“Gakujinma. So one branch of the Seiryu Lake level’s big three, huh?”

As Hyurumi said, the monsters that inhabit this level are largely split into three groups. The frog-men are the kaerujinma. The one who attacked the community, the jyasouma. And the ones who walk on two legs, not the lizard-kin, but the alligator-men, gakujinma.

Well, it’s basically a frog, snake, and alligator level. When the frogs and snake came out, once I found out about the 3 types I thought that the other type would be a slug, but it was an alligator.
Although now that I think about it, a slug would be kind of weird in the wetlands.

“Kaerujinma and jyasouma were defeated, so we’re investigating whether the gyakujinma will increase too much. Subjugating them is secondary; the main thing is figuring out how much of a threat they are.”

Two of the three major threats took a lot of damage, so now we’re investigating the alligators’ area to see if they’ve increased to much, and if they have, then we’ll make plans to subjugate them.

The level has an ecosystem, and if it’s recklessly destroyed then some sort of phenomenon occurring is expected; it seems like the big disaster three years ago was also the result of the monsters’ power balance being destroyed.

“Well yeah, if we don’t look into it now, it’ll get nasty, *na*. Mr kaerujinmas came out, and that big ass jyasouma even showed up is what they said. There could be something fishy going on, on this level … Ramis, if it gets seriously bad, you gotta pull out.”

“Ok. If it gets too dangerous, I’ll run away with Hakkon. Ri~ght?”

“Welcome.”

In order to be able to put up Barrier at any time, I have to remember to be vigilant at all times while on the expedition.

If I was normal, there would be all sorts of preparations I’d have to make, but I don’t really have to do anything in particular. I guess just taking a look at new products and trying to see if they’d fit the situation is about all I have to do. A-, I need to sell ingredients in bulk to the food stalls.

And then, I'll sell a lot of beverages cheap at Munami's temporary eatery. I'm going to be gone from the community for a while, so I need to make it so the regular customers can replenish themselves.

Since it's widely known throughout the community that I'll be leaving with the Fools of Whimsy Brigade for a while, customers kept coming late into the night, and quite a few of them were stocking up.

—

—

The next morning, Ramis and Hyurumi are taking their breakfast next to me.

Ramis is participating in the expedition so I understand why she's got leather armor and boots on, but other than that she only has a small bag swinging and that's it. As well as a wooden rack with straps to carry me.

For food there's me, so there's no problem, and for light, I light up, so that's also fine. When sleeping, I can put my heating function to work, so whether it needs to be hot or cold, I can preserve a comfortable temperature. I can even put out a bath towel.

With that, I have most things accounted for. And then, since she has to carry me, she can't bring much other large luggage. Most of the necessary things are going to be prepared by the Fools of Whimsy Brigade, so there's no need to worry about it too much, huh?

"Yo-. Ramis, Hakkon. All set?"

Appearing along with his voice and trademark ten gallon hat slanted on his brow is a man with a scraggly beard, Leader Keryoil. Next to him is the blue-haired vice leader, Filmina-san.

"Good morning everyone. As long as there are not any problems, there should be a luggage carriage waiting at the gate."

"Okaaaay. We're ready. Hakkon, let's go. Heave ho-!"

Like always, she lightly carries me, and follows behind the Leader and Vice-Leader. We were always inside the community during winter, so it's been a while since we've gone outside. Recently, rather than saying it's another world, it feels

like we're shooting a fantasy movie.

During winter the people who carry dangerous-looking things had become few and the simply dressed people had increased, so I'd forget that I was in another world from time to time. Maa, the Bear President and other animal-faced people would show up from time to time, so I'd get pulled back to reality, though.

In this world the beastkin aren't the fancy kind with just cat ears and tail, they're the ones with the face of the animal. The frog-men are like that too, but they're the type where only the skeleton is kind of like a human.

"Living in these walls be constraining, *na*. If ya don't take a breath outside, you'll go crazy."

"Welcome."

I replied, but I only just now realized that Hyurumi was lined up walking next to us. So she's seeing us off.

"That over there's the luggage cart the Whimsy Brigade is using."

In the direction Hyurumi stabbed her finger is a huge luggage cart pulled by a unasusu. It's pulled up a bit in front of the gate, and next to it are Karios and Gols, as well as the Brigade member Hunters, idly chatting.

"O-, Ramis, Hakkon. So you've been added to come. A, hang on. Let me stockpile a few more."

"I'm going to buy some too."

Since I won't see you for a while, I recommend buying and stocking up now.

Since they're buying in bulk, I tampered with the winning chance of the lottery slots, for Gols. Recently the riajuu appeals have been annoying, but it's not like I'm favoring him.

"A-, Leader-san brought you guys, *ne*. Ramis-san, Hakkon-san, good to have you-."

"Ou, we welcome you two fine people … one person and one box? Good to have you-"

"Good to have you, good to have you-"

This Brigade seems to get along with each other really well; they do tentatively have a hierarchy, but basically everyone's pretty overly familiar with each other. All the members of the Fools of Whimsy Brigade are the Leader, Vice Leader, and all the Hunter-like girl who was there when we were subjugating the frog-men. As well as two young men, twins who get along well.

"Alri-ght, let's go. Hurry up and get ready."

Urging the twins who were relaxing within the canopied luggage area, Leader Keryoil kicked at the wheel. The twins switched to the driver's seat, and the Leader and Vice Leader boarded the luggage area.

"Ramis and Hakkon climb in as well."

"No. I'll run there like this! That way I'll get some training. And I think if I put Hakkon on, the unasusu will have a hard time."

Maa, I'm about the weight of several adults, na. Once everyone gets on, it might be a big burden.

"'kay, then I'll get on instead."

So saying, the Hyurumi who should have only been here to see us off hopped on. Wait, *eeee*-

"E, Hyurumi's coming too?"

"*Ousu*. If it's monster ecology examination, it be better to have someone with lots of knowledge, right? I properly took the commission from the Bear President."

So you didn't say anything just to surprise us, huh? Come to think of it, she wasn't exactly acting like she was all that worried.

Their name is, well, that, but the Fools of Whimsy Brigade is definitely good at what they do, enough to be used as an escort, so I guess even the combat-less Hyurumi will be fine, but I don't really know much about this world where monsters exist.

When the monsters get near you'll raise a defense, but if you go by the standard, removing Ramis, typically you'd hide in the luggage area.

Adventuring, huh … I've been reincarnated as a vending machine in another

world, and should only live out the rest of my life just selling items, but to think that I can go exploring a labyrinth like this.

Life – – of a vending machine's that is, is something you can't predict.[2]

While being shaken on Ramis' back, as she runs at the same speed as the luggage cart, I'm deeply moved as I watch the community receding into the distance.

---

1. Spring can refer to love, specifically the mutual, early stages of love where you can only see each other's good points, and being a couple is the best thing ever-! … Something like that?
2. literally "Jinsei (a human's life) – jidou hanbaiki sei (a vending machine's life)"

<T/n: Thank you Meosua for your donation!

I purposefully left the frog/snake/alligator terms like that because, despite the kanji, Hakkon does make it a point to speak of them in different terms than the residents of the other world.

I am going to start speeding up a little now~ … I think.>

Companion for the Journey

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Companion for the Journey

I'm staring at the sky over the meadow with clouds floating over it here and there, but I'm being transported by a girl … if you think about it too deeply, you'll lose. About three hours have passed since we departed early in the morning, so for the moment we are taking a short break.

The large unasusu still seems to have more than enough strength, and Ramis, who ran alongside it, also doesn't show any weariness in her actions. It's not the first time I've thought it, but what an outrageous physical ability this girl has.

So it's kind of like why even take a break, but it seems to be a toilet break. The proportion of ladies in this line-up is significant, so the places you can do your business and the timing are problems. It's not like they can just stand off on the side and do their 'little' business like guys can.

Although it's not an issue in a game, it's an issue in real-life, huh? *Are*, come to think of it, there's THAT for this kind of situation, *na*.

Looking down the Functions column, I select THAT, and by consuming Points I acquire it. And then, I immediately change to use it.

I've already been left behind next to the cart, but the twins and the hunter-like girls who watched me change form dropped their mouths wide-open. So these people hadn't seen this before.

"*Are*, Hakkon be showing us some function again. N? What the, there's something attached next to him, *zo*."

Like Hyurumi said, this time I didn't change my main body but a new object has made its appearance next to me. It's a long and narrow locker-like object, with a

height exactly the same as me.

The bottom half is a trash can. The top half has a lid inserted, and if you undo it, inside is a folded up chair, a cardboard box, and a long, thin piece of cardboard stowed in it.

“What is this? If Hakkon takes it out with this kind of timing, this gotta have some meaning to it.”

“Welcome.”

“For now, it ok to open it and take stuff out?”

“Welcome.”

As Hyurumi took out the contents without any hesitation, Ramis and the Fools of Whimsy Brigade crowded around and peeped over here with great interest.

“This is, a collapsible chair, huh? But how come there a gaping hole where you sit? This box made of this weird-ass feeling material, inside there’s some mysterious paper? It’s probably ok to open it, *na*.”

“Welcome.”

“I’m just gonna do what I want, so if I shouldn’t, just stop me. ‘Kay then, this tough paper is actually a bag.”

“*Nee*, Hyurumi. Doesn’t that bag look like it would fit through that hole in the chair perfectly?”

“*Nnn-*, *o-*. Perfect fit. Good going, Ramis. Then, this other thin box. Open this as well … inside is a transparent bag, and in that is … *uooo-*“

When took it out, with a *pop* sound, it expanded out three times as long. That’s a folded up tent, a convenient item that you just need to spread out and it opens.

“Th,that freaked me out. It just took on a pre-set shape; if I just touch it a bit, it’ll go back to its former shape? It might be similar to a magic tool.”

Like her curiosity overtook her fright, she was bent over, somehow spreading out the little tent.

“It’s some sort of tent that one person can set up by himself. Put the chair

with the hole in it and the bag inside … Oi oi, don't tell me, this a toilet!?"

As Hyurumi shouted, the color of the womens' eyes changed.

That's right, this is an emergency service installed next to the vending machine, a simple emergency toilet. With the great repeated disasters in the current years, toilets have become a serious issue. For that, the vending machine manufacturers installed a service box with a simple toilet inside.

They're still few in number, but I sincerely wanted to support these prepared manufacturers, so when I find one I'll always buy something.

"When you close the panel of the little tent, there be no chance of people seeing you 'neither. And after you use the bag, you can close it up and the smell will be contained too."

"A,are you serious-!?"

The Vice-Leader Filmina-san raised a rare yell and approached Hyurumi, who was still explaining.

"Y,yeah. I'm probably not mistaken. Inside the bag there's stuff in the bottom that gives off a scent, and it seems to be something to combat the smell of piss. *Naa*, Hakkon."

"Welcome."

"There ya go, that's what it is."

The women whose eyes changed color swarmed the simple toilet in a 'me first' fashion. First, Hyurumi tested it out to see how it worked, and when she emerged with a satisfied face, the women all lined up to use it.

"Hakkon. This is seriously wicked awesome. This be something that Hunters would pull out gold coins for, y'know?"

It looks like the womens' toilet situation was even more serious than I thought. Since this is an emergency service, it doesn't take money.

Maa, afterwards, the Hunters who used the toilet bought beverages from me in gratitude, so it's fine.

"What do you think? Because I solicited Hakkon, you can use such a

convenient toilet. *Saa*, it's fine to praise your great Leader more!"

"Hakkon's the amazing one; it has nothing to do with Leader."

Filmina-san cut him off coldly over her shoulder; the back of Leader as he walked away looked a little forlorn.

After the great success of the simple toilet, they took the bag and buried it in a hole. The things that come from the products have the possibility of disappearing, so when thinking about ground contamination, if the bag disappears, the waste will just return to the earth, probably.

The simple toilet was folded up and stored in the cart. Since the Emergency Set consumed points, it won't disappear so I'll let them have it. Although I'll retrieve it after the expedition is over.

"Let's take an early lunch next."

Alright, now it's time for the real job. I've sneakily lined up products at half the price I sell them for in the community. Normally, in this type of situation you would sell them at a higher price, but since the Fools of Whimsy Brigade promised me payment before, I'm doing this as a favor for good publicity for the next time Ramis does Hunter activites.

"This compacted and grilled cereal is tastyyy."

"O, seriously. This strongly-seasoned pasta is also real good."

The guy twins are getting along and splitting the food. One of them has red hair, and the other has white hair. In my head, I'm going to call them the Red-White Combo.[1] By the way, people call them just like that, "Red" and "White".

"Haaa, to be able to enjoy such great food while on an expedition, I'm so happy and grateful."

The archer girl who has hair short enough to see her neck, so that you could mistake her for a boy at a glance, raised her high-pitched, anime moe-character voice.

Takoyaki, yakisoba, cup ramen, kara'age[2], and a 2 litre of cola are placed — no, were placed in front of her. All of the contents within have disappeared. She's a small-sized woman, but she completely demolished all of that by herself. Her

manner of eating is as frightening as an eating-contest champion's.

"Shui is a big eater as always. Thanks to Hakkon-san, we don't have to worry about how much food we have remaining this time."

With one finger toying with her blue, wavy hair, Vice-Leader Filmina lets out a sigh.
Just bringing a big eater like this along for a long-term expedition, you'll run out of food reserves immediately.

"You mean this time you won't make us go out to catch a monster to roast whole-!?"

"Aa, what a relief … seriously, what a relief."

The Red-White twins are so happy they're hugging each other. So previously they've had to go catch a monster to eat each time, huh? Snake seems like it could be tasty, but I wonder how frog people would be. Come to think of it, the first time I met Ramis, it seems she had been catching frog people to eat.

So the inhabitants of this other world pretty much don't have any aversion to eating monsters. Normally, when out of civilization, Hunter cooking is pretty much just canned goods with salt and herbs, so I can understand the emotional delight from having vending machine food.

With the simple toilet, temporarily accompanying a Hunter Team and doing business seems like I can rake in quite some profits. And since she's here as help to carry the vending machine me, the possibilities of Ramis getting hurt decreases.

But, if you're thinking about safety, it would be best to attach ourselves to a prominent brigade like this Fools of Whimsy Brigade, but … *u-n*. I can debate about it in my head all I want, but the decision lies with Ramis. I don't even have one piece of advice, but through this time's expedition, I'll examine this brigade.

I've made this decision and hidden it inside myself, but right now, there's nothing in particular about them. After the break we resume our pace; the occasional frog person and small, though adult-sized, twin-headed snake are so far away that they just shoot arrows or water magic at them.

Aside from that, once in a while the Leader lying on top of the canopy will

throw a knife, and a monster will sprout a knife in its head before falling over.

They're definitely in a different class. I understand the young Hunters' admiration. I was there while they fought the King Frogman, and in the situations where I had time to observe them, I unconsciously let out a sigh of admiration.
Here where the opponents don't even get close, the close-combat twins and Ramis don't get a chance to show off.

"Hakkon. I wonder if it's okay for me not to do anything. Do you think it'd be ok to throw rocks?"

Throwing rocks, huh. Fundamentally it's clumsy, but it makes proper use that super-human strength, *na*. I wonder if I have any good that's suitable for throwing.

If you wrap a chain around me and spin me around, it would deal quite the heavy damage, but Ramis definitely won't go for it. *U-n*, throwing weapons, huh? How about an old, nostalgic, glass-bottled juice? If it's that, then it has the right weight and hardness, and I can have some hopes to its might. Its size is also hand, so it should make throwing easy.
In order to try it out, I stock the glass-bottled juice and then tried dropping one.

Right now I'm being carried on her back while she's facing forward, so with an impossible posture that looks like her arm stretched out to grab it, Ramis somehow managed to extract it while walking.

"*N*? This is that fizzy poppy juice, *ne*. *Are*, it's in something different, it's harder."

"It so you can throw it, ain't it?"

Popping her face out of the cart, Hyurumi made that suggestion.

Reaching an understanding, Ramis *pon* clapped her hands and gave a great nod. With perfect timing, a frogman appeared up ahead, and with the glass-bottled juice in hand, she wielded it and threw it.
It went flying off in the wrong direction, and the glass-bottled juice disappeared into the brush; the frog man gave an amazed look and ducked.

"*Urgh,* how frustratiiing."

She really does have way more strength than she knows what to do with it. So she does have the possibility of throwing, but her precision leaves something to be desired, is what it boils down to. It's almost like it would be more likely to hit if I threw it.

Maa, right after, the frogman was easily shot through the crown of his head and defeated. It looks like Ramis won't get to show off for a while.

---

1. Kouhaku – referring to festive colors both red and white. Red is aka, white is shiro, but kouhaku is red-and-white together, like saying, "That flag is red (aka), that flag is white (shiro), and that flag is red-and-white (kouhaku)." The joke(?) is that he's simplifying them from 2 people to 1 entity. Yeah, not something that goes well into translation.
2. takoyaki – balls of salty batter with octopus bits grilled
   yakisoba – thin buckwheat noodles stir-fried with veggies and meat of various sorts in soy-sauce-based sauce
   kara'age – bits of chicken, breaded and fried, with a soy-sauce-based marinade

<T/n: Thank you Skirie for your donation!>

Dealing with Alligators

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Dealing with Alligators

The boar cargo cart came to a stop due to a cave-in in the rocky mountains; lying down on top of the cart's canopy, lying fully stretched out, is a man.

"*FUAAAAaaa.* We're about to enter those guys' habitat, so you guys, look sharp, yo-"

"Then, I think Leader should come down from the top of the canopy."

"Maybe I should stab him with my spear from underneath."

I think it's a good idea. Nice suggestion, Red-White twins.

Two days have passed since we left the community, and we're now facing the third day. It's now a time when the star that I believe to be like the sun has reached it's zenith overhead, and it seems we are now about to enter the gakujinma's (alligator men) territory.

"Leader, enough already; I want you to come down at once. We need to scout and investigate, right?"

"'Ka-y. For crying out loud, what a short-tempered Vice-Leader."

Holding down his hat with his right hand so it doesn't go flying, Leader Keryoil jumped down. It's frustrating, but with that movement, I thought he looked cool for a second.

"N, then, Red and White. We're counting on you to scout ahead."

"Understood-"

"Aye aye sir-"

So these two are in charge of scouting, huh?

Just by looks, I thought they'd be the kind of characters who would be in charge of raising the spirits of the rear guards, though. *Hooray, hooray*; the types that would be the ones to say that type of thing.

Even though their faces aren't bad, because of their frivolous tone and way too laidback dispositions, it seems like Ramis and Hyurumi won't fall for them even by mistake.

As for weapons, Red has a somewhat short spear. White has a short sword. Their equipment has the feel of a business shirt made out of a heavy material; the color is a faded brown. They've been used quite a bit, it seems.

O-, their expressions went straight all of a sudden. Their eyes have sharpened, and the atmosphere they had about them changed in a second. If they were always like this, they'd probably be popular with women.

Taking a low stance, the two disappeared into the tall grass. Just walking in a wetland should make it hard to take a step, but they're moving without even a sound. Completely different from their looks, they're excellently capable people, huh?

"Alright then, now we wait leisurely for some time. Hakkon, are there any tasty snacks?"

"The sweet tea for me"

"Welcome."

So it's Leader and Vice-Leader's relaxation time. They don't have even a fraction of worry. The other short hair, female brigade member that was there only fine-tunes her bow; there's not a single concern towards the two that disappeared. Is it trust that they have?

Ramis leans on me from the backside, and, seemingly feeling good, takes a nap. Hyurumi seems interested in the construction of the can, so she swigged it all in one gulp and fidgeted with it and turned it over, writing things down in a notepad.

They're way too defenseless in this area where the gakujinma roam, but their abilities are top notch. There's probably no need for me to keep an eye out. However, I never want to make the mistake from before due to carelessness

again.

—

—

The sun is about halfway set, and the each of the Fools of Whimsy Brigade began to make preparations for camping. Ramis wanted to help, but she was gently refused. With her super-human strength, the fixtures and tools would be broken, so I guess they're being cautious against that.
She sits next to me looking slightly lonely, so I give her a present of hot milk tea.

Don't be so bothered by it, it's fine to be cared for. Look at Hyurumi; she's over there with her belly showing, full-heartedly scratching while fast asleep … it's better if you don't imitate that.

"We're back, yo –"

"We're home-"

Uo-, that scared me. Exactly when were the Red-White twins standing, lined up, next to me? It's unknown whether a vending machine has the ability to detect presences, but I completely didn't notice them at all.

"Leader. We checked around."

"Good job. We'll be having dinner in a bit, so before that, go ahead."

"Aye aye sir-. Uuum, it's probably about 2 hours northeast from here, *na,* Red?"

"Seems like, *na*, White. There's a small bog there, with about 30 of them splish-splashing around in there."

So they call each other Red and White too. It's kind of a careless report, but is it going to be ok with that; I'm a bit worried.

"So there's 30 gathered; with that much in a flock, how's it?"

The Leader's gaze went towards Hyurumi, who was now examining the material of a plastic bottle immediately after waking up.

"*N-*, it's a flock if it's over ten, it's on the big side if it fifty, but it's less you say. If it be thirty, than it a mid-sized flock. What's the size of a single one?"

“*N-to*, standing up, it’s about our size, *na* White.”

“Yup, Red. I thought it was overall the same.”

They’re a little shorter than me, so about 175; they’re quite the large-sized creature. If I take the approximation from the frogmen and apply it to alligators, the spine will extend and it will walk on 2 legs; if the arms and legs are about that long, than it seems it will be kinda slow.

“It seems a bit shorter than usual. It usually about two meters in height. If the frogs increased but the flock didn’t, then it could be they didn’t attack and were short on food … naw, if there’s thirty around, then they could manage against a group of about 100.”

So you mean, if we figure it simply, that means the alligatormen have three times the power of the frogmen. It’s an alligator, with hard skin that can be used as armor, and the tail and gigantic mouth make splendid weapons. It’s not a mystery where that increase in power comes from.

“We aren’t specialists on the hierarchy of this level, so we don’t really understand. The gakujinma(alligatormen), I guess they are the strongest of the three great powers on this level. If the kaerujinma(frogmen)increased, then the food increases, so shouldn’t it be hip hip hooray for them?”

“If ya think about it normally. But this time there be a King kaerujinma. It’s unknown as to how a King comes around, but that thing has stupid-ass fighting power, so it’s a problem when it’s commanding a group. They gather together small groups and wrangle in the stragglers.”

“So what you mean is, the gakujinma aren’t going to carelessly lay their hands on that. And the jyasouma (double-headed snake) too, that’s why it would prefer to go after the community.”

A-, that was something I was curious about. Normally, jyasoumas are things that go about acting alone, being large creatures that measure two meters front to back is what I heard.

“After a jyasouma eats, it sheds and then repeats and gets bigger; that’s the kind of creature it is. Just, it got meat that’s a fine-quality item that you can get high prices for, so there’s a lot of Hunters that go after them. They prowl around

alone, so they the best prey."

So the kaerujinma(frogmen) are targeted by gakujinma(alligatormen) and jyasouma(double-headed snake).
The jyasouma (double-headed snake) is aimed at by the Hunters.
The gakujinma(alligatormen) is … neglection play?

"*Maa*, so it that. Their food all gathered to the King's side, the jyasouma ate the few stragglers left behind, and they got so big that it be hard to do something against them. And then, ain't it that their food dwindled and so they got weaker?"

"I see now-. Well then, isn't it better if we don't do anything in particular and don't meddle in it?"

"Leader. The gakujinma are meat eaters, right? If their food supply is gone right now, to quell the starvation, exactly what do you think they will attack?"

"*Maa*, it would be us humans, huh? Alright then, let's wipe 'em all out."

Exactly what will happen to this level's ecosystem then? If the monsters are completely wiped out, would it be that they just disappear from the level? Or would it be some kind of mysterious dungeon power that will bring forth an outbreak?
If I asked Hyurumi I'm sure she'd happily teach me, but I don't have a way to ask the question.

"That's true. If we wipe out the flocks near the community, there should be no problems."

Vice-Leader Filmina agrees with him, on this rare occasion.

Oh yeah, the Seiryu Lake's level is something you can't reach from one end to another within three weeks. I can understand that there'd be no problems if we wipe out the flocks within 2, 3 days of the community.

"And so, seriously, what should we do? The request was to bring back information on the flocks, see. We don't have to particularly go out of our way to defeat any; our pay is still guaranteed."

"But the materials off of them sell for a lot. We can lend a hand in weakening

the main force by reducing some of them. The materials can sell for a lot, you know.”

Are, Vice-Leader Filmina is strangely proactive. *E*, is the Fools of Whimsy Brigade going through a management crisis?

“Vice-Leader’s always someone who argues when it comes to money, *na*.”

“Even though she’s usually someone who’s calm and collected, *na*.”

“Previously, even though I didn’t eat all that much, she got so mad.”

The brigade members gathered together and exchanged words in low voices.

So this is just the miserly potential, huh … but next to the careless-seeming Leader, you’d become strict concerning money. Just looking at him, I think it seems like a tough position to be in.

“Deciding to subjugate them aside, how to do it? Do the stereotypical night assault?”

“I think ya should avoid that. Gakujinma be nocturnal creatures. They get more ferocious at night.”

“He-, is that so.”

He-, so it’s like that. A-, Ramis said that. Seriously, Hyurumi’s a walking encyclopedia.

The ecology of alligators… Previously, when I went to the zoo to see an animal-feed vending machine, when I peeked into the alligator corner, what was it that was written there?

If I remember right, alligator feed is … I think I have memories of seeing it written as fish and chicken meat. Vending machines don’t deal with raw meats. Fish … as boiled paste … so, chikuwa aside, there aren’t any.

As for other characteristics, a-, there’s talk about the frogmen being weak in winter, so alligatormen should also be weaker in the cold. Alligators are cold-blooded, so the possibility is there.

In the first place, they were saying that we should scout out the alligatormen before they entered their active period. Right now we’re just about to enter

spring and the temperature has risen. Cold weather, huh … *are*, I can do that, can't I?

"So then, tonight we'll fully rest our bodies and tomorrow morning we'll make our move. We'll crush every single one that moves away from the flock and make it flashy *zo*-"

"That's right. Then, since we're going in tomorrow, let's make dinner. Red and White, please be the look-outs."

"*Eee*–. Even though we just got back from all that scouting just now."

"Oppression – . Leader, requesting better working conditions –"

"Yeah yeah, I'll help out too, so let's go."

Going between the twins who are expressing their dissatisfaction and winding her arms through theirs, the archer woman drags them off.

After finishing off the meal made by the ingredients I offered, Ramis and Hyurumi came forward with a request about keeping watch, and I went along with their request. I tentatively switched the vending machine's light off.

"So the fight's tomorrow. That bein' the case, I ain't gonna be any help. Ramis and Hakkon too, don't overdo it. It be possible that your opponents will be more vicious 'cause of starvation. If it gets wicked bad, Hakkon, protect with Barrier."

"Welcome."

"I'll be relying on you, Hakkon."

You got it. Protection related business is my business. I have more than enough points by quite a bit, so when the time comes, I'll sink them all into defense.

"If I can do anythin' ta help, that would be good, *na*."(Hyurumi)

A, that's right The method I just thought of, if it's Hyurumi, I bet she could guess it. Anyway, let's try it out and see.

"If we're talking about the gakujinma's weaknesses … *O*-, what's up, Hakkon? You be another weird-ass shape."

I've become a slimmer shape than usual; my body is mostly white, and on top

of that, the letters [ICE] have floated to the surface. My retrieval opening is much bigger, enough space for a small bucket to easily enter.

“I wonder what this sells. Hakkon never transforms without a reason, *ne*.”

You understand me, *ne*, Ramis. As for what I’m selling, as soon as you see the goods you’ll understand.

I operate the vending machine, and down dropped ice cubes into the opening. This is, usually placed in supermarkets and fish markets, an ice vending machine.

“*O*-, this is ice, huh? If it was summer, this would make a killin’, I bet.”

“*Fuwa*, it’s so cold. But, putting ice out like this, I wonder what we should do with it.”

“If we follow the flow of the conversation just now, this ice is to help defeat the gakujinma.

“It must be to throw it-!”

It’s a very Ramis idea, but that one’s “Too bad”.

“Ice, the gakujinma, and their ecology; if it’s like this, there bee only one answer. Hakkon, can ya put out all this frozen stuff like fool gone crazy?”

“Welcome.”

“So that be it. Ain’t this going to be interesting?”

“*Ne, ne,* I want to know too, so tell me-!”

A, Ramis, who couldn’t follow the discussion, puffed out her cheeks and sulked.

I’ll leave the detailed explanation to Hyurumi. Because I can’t bend over to listen to what’s being said … I’ll entrust it to you. In exchange, I’ll keep doing my best to keep watch.

Whiling watching over them, trying to soothe Ramis, I expand my omni-directional field of vision to the maximum it can go and, before she’s pacified, I do the watch on my own.

—

—

The next day, Hyurumi explained the plan to the Fools of Whimsy Brigade, and since they were all for it, they're going to cooperate with us. With the Red-White twins leading the way, we reached the banks of the brook that flowed into the pond, and once I was situated there, I poured ice into it.

The brook can't be more than thirty centimeters in width looking at it, so the volume of water isn't significant, but it's the perfect conditions for the ice to float on the surface of the water and flow in.

Saa, keep it going. *Maa*, I have my doubts as to how much this ice will be able to lower the water's temperature, but for my plans for the bog, it shouldn't matter too much. It's early spring, so the water should still be cold enough so that the ice shouldn't melt much. The bog the alligatormen live in is shallow, so like that the water temperature should lower … if it manages to work like that, that'd be great.

The time when the gakujinma are in the water is the absolute worst to have, so if the water temperature is low enough that they don't want to leave the bog, it seems that would help out a lot. Like that, the ice is going to be a great play to make.

Clack clack with clinking noises the ice was emitted in huge quantities. The conversion from Points to ice is really light, so even if I continued to put it out for about an hour, there would be no feeling of sacrifice.

And with this, if the temperature goes down a little bit and make those guys move weaker, that is also a profit. If it makes Ramis' battles easier, just this amount of expenditure is cheap spending.

<T/n: Thank you Dvang4 and MK for your donations!
Grumble grumble; because Hakkon calls them "frogmen/alligatormen" but everyone else uses different terms that the author wrote out the pronunciations for, I decided to translate it this way in prev chapters, but with this confusing ecosystem talk, I wonder if I shouldn't have thought better of it.
I dunno, I like the Red-White twins. I think Hakkon's just harsh on men. He so

jealous of their … living… ness.
Sorry for the delay, got super worn out… introvert who can moonlight as a pseudo-extrovert in a wedding party … sooo tired.>

Alligator Killing

[

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Alligator Killing

“Leader. The gakujinma are getting up onto the bank. It looks like they’re shivering because it’s cold, *yo*-. Seems like they’re lying down listlessly.” (Red)

When Red, who had gone to scout the situation of the bog, came back, he gave his report.
Leader Keryoil, sprawled on top of a large rock, said, “Good job,” lifting a hand.

“It looks like a good situation, but even if you say they can’t move, the other ones of those guys will respond if we attack. Vice-Leader, is it possible to use Fog Magic to obstruct their vision?”(Keryoil)

“It’s not like I can’t, but if you wanted me to cover the entire bog, it’s impossible.”(Fulmina)

Oo, Fog Magic huh? Mist floating above a bog has an elegant sound to it, *na*.

I would definitely love to see it, but the area it needs to effect is too big, huh? If you want an outbreak of fog in the swamp, then this time, if I use that, I can lend a hand.

“Then, what are we going to do? Split those guys apart … watcha doing, Hakkon?” (Keryoil)

Seeing me changing my form, Leader Keryoil’s hat slid down. This time’s form change is the type that has a silver body with a transparent door attached halfway up.

Upon opening the door, the contents in there is a silver tube, from which a white mass dropped. From that a white vapor rose and ascended; it was all

contained inside.

“*N*, what is this? It’s too cloudy to be ice. It’s something like snow clumped together and hardened?”(Keryoil)

Since he’s curious, Leader jumped off of the big rock and brought his face close to the white clump, peering at it. When he went to poke it with his finger, I dropped more of THAT and said a “Too bad.”

“Leader-san. I think Hakkon might be trying to say that you shouldn’t touch that, *na*.”(Red/White)

“If you touch it with your bare hands, it might be dangerous, I think.” (White/Red)

“Welcome.” (Hakkon)

The two are correct. It would be easier to show them than explain, so I dropped more and more like crazy; the white clumps that overflowed from my retrieval opening fell into the river.
The moment it touched the water, the white clump erupted in huge plumes of vapor.

“Uo-, what the!? Smoke is coming out like crazy!”(Keryoil)

Leaping to the side, away from right in front of me, he stared at the white smoke emitting and streaming from the white clumps – – the dry ice. That was a great reaction, Leader.

I think everyone’s played with dry ice, putting it in water to emit white vapor, at least once. With this I think it could be a substitute for mist, but what do you guys think?

“Hakkon-san. This is amazing! With this, mixed with my Fog Magic, we might be able to cover the whole bog area!” (Fulmina)

“Ain’t you so capable, Hakkon. Can’t expect any less from the magic tool I got my eye on.” (Hyurumi)

“Much more useful than Leader, *ne*.” (Fulmina)

“Guwa-!” (Keryoil)

With Fulmina the Vice-Leader's cold-hearted declaration, Leader clasped a hand to his chest and fell back.

"Mou, we should hurry up and make Hakkon the Leader." (White)

"That's a really good idea, White. The name 'Fools of Whimsy Brigade' is a lame name too, so let's change it to the cuter sounding 'Hakkon Brigade.'" (Red)

"Y,you guys, I really wracked my brains to come up with that; to think that that's what you really think about a name just overflowing with good taste-." (Keryoil)

As Red and White continued the harsh pursuit, Leader resisted them.

"Well, I mean, it's whimsical fools –ssuyo. Since the 'Hakkon Brigade' sounds cute, it seems like it would be popular with girls. If Hakkon-san becomes the leader, I'd be able to eat all I want, *ne*! I'm in agreement!"(Shui)

"UOOOOooo"(Keryoil)

The female brigade member finished him off. Leader crouched, hitting the ground. How pitiful.

"Alright, alright. Let's leave the horsing around at that. Leader, don't give in to your inferiority complex and give out your orders."(Fulmina)

"*Ke*-, you guys do whatever you're supposed to and defeat them. Your useless Leader is just going to watch over here while drinking sweet tea." (Keryoil)

Aa, he's kicking a rock on the riverbank; it's easy to see that he's sulking. Are you a child?
What this Leader said didn't pass at all, and his brigade members dragged him off.

"Uum, I want to go too, but we can't just leave Hakkon behind here, *ne*. Then, can you watch house here, Hyurumi?" (Ramis)

"Welcome."

"Ya, don't worry, just go. If it get dangerous, get back here." (Hyurumi)

'*Un*, I'm off, *ne*-" (Ramis)

While I still have the duty to continue to drop dry ice I can't move from here,

but it makes me uneasy to not be together. She's only weak against opponents who hunt in big groups, so I think she'd only get done in if she's careless, but I'm worried if she's not there at my back.

"Maa, don't get so worried. The Fools of Whimsy Brigade be an amazing Hunter brigade. They also know when to quit. If it gets bad, they'll get back over here."(Hyurumi)

As she *bang bang* strikes my body, she seems to have apprehensions too.

I will believe that it will be fine. I have to concentrate on my own job or else. Dropping the dry ice in the brook, I can't do anything but stare in the direction that the disappears in the midst of the overflowing mist.

"I'm bored, Hakkon." (Hyurumi)

"Welcome." (Hakkon)

One person and one box who are bad in combat can't do anything but this. I have to continue sending down dry ice, but even though I was reincarnated into another world, I don't have any fighting techniques; it leaves an unforgivable feeling.

"I'm just gonna blabber because I'm bored, so keep me company." (Hyurumi)

"Welcome." (Hakkon)

"This time I got the task of reconnaisance, but I wanna talk about the request I got directly from the President. The request is, recently Seiryu Lake's level be acting weird so investigate. That's how it is. If this time the gakujinma are bein' weird too, then we gotta be wary." (Hyurumi)

The King Frog and the over-sized giant snake. I might not be an original citizen of this world, but even I realize that the state of things is weird. Furthermore, I also think there's something or other about the gakujinma.

"I don't think Hakkon knows, but each level has some existence ya call the Ruler. Ya have to defeat that in order to be able to unlock the next level. It that happens, once the level's Ruler gets defeated, it's rare for it not to revive. But the revival is pretty rare. We don't get the requirements even today, but there are even some times when it takes several years, or even several tens of

years.”(Hyurumi)

Ruler, huh? The boss character that often appears on the level of a dungeon. In front of the stairs that connect down to the next level, in front of doors, it’s an existence that lies in wait.

“And so, the President thinks that all this mess be from the Ruler reviving. The Leader from the Fools of Whimsy Brigade are also saying this. That’s why if there’s any hint of something seriously wrong, they’ll retreat without even considerin’ anything else. Oh yeah, if ya beat that Ruler, rumor has it you can get your hands on some awesome treasure, although that’s a lie.” (Hyurumi)

This time’s reconnaissance is quite the important task. But I wonder what kind of creature this level’s Ruler is. A frog, alligator, snake mix chimera?

As you’d think, being really big is the standard for that. It’s probably over 5 meters in body length, I bet. If there’s a spot where I can observe safely, I’d like to check it out.

If the Ruler really did revive, it might be better to consider moving to another level or above ground. Maa, I’ll have to leave all of that up to these two girls as well.
I’m interested in the existence called the Ruler, but right now, Ramis’ safety … thinking of it, I’m uneasy, thinking that something is going to go wrong.

“But ya know, no matter what, there ain’t much risk for us pullin’ the attentions of the Ruler.”(Hyurumi)

Hyurumi, we call that a flag *dazo*. If I keep that bad premonition to myself, it won’t happen so I’ll be careful.
Understanding that, I didn’t let out even one retort, but that thought immediately disappeared.

“What is this shaking …”(Hyurumi)

Bit by bit, the part of me that was connected to the ground transmitted the sensation of vibrations. There’s nothing but bad premonitions, but I direct my line of sight to the origin of the sound – – I can see the boar cart stampeding in this direction. The canopy of the cart has been completely destroyed, so the people inside are completely visible.

In the driver's seat are the red and white-haired twins. Behind them with a flustered face is Leader. And then, facing behind them is the archer Shui and Vice-Leader Fulmina firing arrows and magic.
Ramis is, where is Ramis!? Right now, in the range of view I have, Ramis' figure is … there-!
She's deposited in the back of the cart, and her eyes are closed and she's not moving. I,is she ok!?

"Oi oi oi, you've got to be kidding me! Shit, we were right on the money. The Ruler's come out-!" (Keryoil)

Ruler!? If I could say what I wanted, I'd yell that out right back at him.
The thing that Hyurumi's been staring dumbly at since a while ago is, chasing after the boar cart, a small mountain.
I'm not trying to be funny. There is something that I can't think of as anything else but a small mountain that's chasing after those guys from behind.

You wouldn't be able to see the boar carts figure; if you pulled back and looked at it from far away to see the whole thing, that's how absurdly big this thing is.
The full form is a giant alligator. It's just, you have to ignore that it has eight legs and four eyes.

The bottoms of those feet alone are enough to completely hide the boar cart, that's how enormous they are. I expected it to be big, but this way exceeds the norm. People are supposed to be able to beat this thing!?
With the eight legs, rather than lessening the vibrations, it's like it's to the extent that my vending machine body is floating.

"Aa, shit. It awakened to the point of breaking the level-!" (Hyurumi)

Hyurumi spat that out with great annoyance. Her gaze is on the crack running through the ground in front of the chaser; I can see light spilling out from it. So that's the "breaking the level" she's talking about, huh?
I don't really get it, but at the very least, I understand that it's nothing good.

Wh,what should we do? The boar cart is running full out in this direction. They might be able to recover Hyurumi, but the time they have to pick me up is … none.
Then, it's decided that I'm going to do what I can to send her off-!

“Ramis is just unconscious, she’s okay! Hyurumi, reach over! Grab my hand-!”(Keryoil)

“And what we gonna do about Hakkon!? Ya saying we should leave him-!?” (Hyurumi)

“Welcome.”(Hakkon)

I answer the question that was directed at Leader.

Hyurumi stared dumbly at me. I activate <Barrier>, and because Hyurumi was close to me, she was pushed away.

“Hakkon, what’s the meaning of this-!” (Hyurumi)

“Sorry about this, Hakkon. After this, we will definitely come back to pick you up!” (Keryoil)

Running past me, Leader Keryoil stretched his upper body out over the cart and grabbed hold of Hyurumi – – and bowing his head, he apologized.

“God fucking dammit, let go of me! Hakkon, Hakko-n!” (Hyurumi)

“Come back again.” (Hakkon)

Towards their receding backs, I let loose words of parting, putting on a front.

For Ramis to have only lost consciousness in this misfortune, I think we were probably lucky. If it was her, she would probably have jumped from the cart and remained behind with me.
With this, everything was decided. I can’t fight as a vending machine, but I should be able to act as a decoy at least!
Form change!

My body stretched out straight forward, reaching three meters. I changed my body to a color that really stands out, and lined up cola as my only product. This vending machine was a big vending machine installed at a certain theme park, a thing where if you don’t come with two people, with one of them acting as a step stool, you wouldn’t be able to reach to purchase anything.

The giant, eight-legged alligator drawing closer had its eyes on the boar cart, but when all of a sudden an eye-catching, large thing appeared, its interest was stolen away.

All four of its eyes are resting on me. In order to further attract its attention over here, I set my recording sound to the maximum volume.

“Welcome. Welcome. Welcome. Welcome.” (Hakkon)

With my loud voice echoing all over, the eight-legged alligator reacted. It’s glare filled with bloodlust stabbed into my iron body. *Oo*, it’s scary. What will I do if my products freeze over?

As it closed in, my field of vision was dyed in the color of the eight-legged alligator’s skin. It’s a black lightly flecked with green, a speckled like color that buried my field of vision. This wetland specialist blows through the mud; it will probably reach me in a few tens of seconds.

I can wager on the <Barrier> that withstood the cave-in of debris, but if it pierces through the Barrier, it will be over in an instant. To add to that, I raised Endurance from 100 to 200, and Defense from 30 to 50.
10,000 and 9,000 points were spent, but it might be a pointless struggle, *na*.[1]

I stare at the way-too-big leg that is approaching right before my eyes; the me who has given up on close observations was ––ignoring gravity, blown backwards.

《Points have been decreased by 1,000.》

Uoooo-, that sensation like being pulled over to the back, that was this guy sending me flying with a kick, huh? I’m a vending machine but I flew through the sky … wait, this ain’t the time to be thinking that!

I was blown through the sky several tens of meters, and crashing into a large rock stopped my movement. Thanks to Barrier there’s no damage, but what’s with the 1,000 point reduction? Wasn’t Barrier 1 point consumption for every second? Even that time when it blocked out all the rubble it didn’t show this kind of thing.

So when <Barrier> takes a stupidly strong attack that surpasses its strength, by consuming a large amount of points, Barrier can preserve itself one way or another.
The rock has a Barrier-shaped dent. If I took that attack as something with flesh and blood, I’d vanish without a scrap of evidence remaining.

More and more, it’s losing interest in chasing after Ramis and the others.

---

1. Literally, like pouring water on a hot stone. It means, it might be a useless action.

<T/n: Thanks Egg and Junior1210 for your donations!
Well. That escalated quickly.
I feel like my fluffy slice of life just got violated by an alligator.>

The Fighting Vending Machine

[

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

The Fighting Vending Machine

For buying time, with <Barrier> repelling its attacks like this, if it's just enduring, I might be able to hold out some how, but if this goes on and it heads towards the community, I don't know whether the Hunter Association's fortress walls can hold up to this.
At the very least, whether each and every person would be saved like the previous time is doubtful.

The always helpful inn's Okami-san and Munami. My most regular customers, the gatekeepers Karios and Gols. The three morning regulars, no, with the granddaughter who's joined them recently, it's four. The contraceptive buying Shirley. The blonde ojou-sama and her black-clothed shadow, the two money-changers, and so many other customers are all in that community.

If there's a vending machine there, it's said that it's a sign that the public order is peaceful.
Then, for a vending machine me that's here to protect each and every one of them, there should be no complaints!

I wonder if he's getting irritated that, no matter how many times he sends me flying I'm unbroken; the eight-legged alligator strikes out at me with a speed that he hadn't shown until now.

Even if I protect against this, if I'm sent flying a ridiculous distance away out of sight, there's also the possibility of this opponent losing its interest in me. If that happens, Ramis and the others that ran away will be exposed to danger. If that's the case, how about this!

It’s something I found in the countryside; I change into a hand-made lunchbox vending machine. And then, I drop down a large amount of kara’age lunchboxes. Because of the rough handling, the contents had spilled out of the lunchboxes, and since they were warm from being heated up, the smell of kara’age wafted out.

I don’t know whether an alligator’s sense of smell is sharp or not, but if it’s that big, it’s probably always hungry. And as a bonus, it should be getting irritated that no matter how many times it attacked, I wouldn’t break.
In this situation, right in front of its eyes, this thing starts to give off a delicious smell; what do you think it will do?
The answer to that is given by the alligator’s mouth lined with sharp teeth.

I was shaken from left to right I don’t know how many times, and now I’m falling head over heels. My surroundings are a reddish-brown, long tube thing.
So this is the esophagus.

Even in this situation, I have <Barrier> protecting me. Like this, as I continued to tumble, there was a sound like falling into some liquid. *Bubble bubble* floating in the sticky liquid, I surveyed my surroundings; rocks and foliage and melted trees were submerged for who knows how long.
Aa, this is the stomach.

《Points were reduced by 10. Points were reduced by 10.》

The gastric juices are reducing my Points terribly. Looks like this situation doesn’t give me much room for error. If this is the enemy’s stomach, then – – let the harassment begin!

I made use of the boxed-goods function and switched the products. It was changed to the detergent vender found in coin-laundromats; I dropped it one after another, and using the abilities of <Barrier>, I marked the detergent as something that should not be inside.

The detergent that I put out was ejected outside of the Barrier, and *glub glub* sank in the gastric juices.
Saa, squirm in the palms of my hand. I’ll treat you to as much as you want and wash your stomach clean!

As I dropped the detergent into its stomach one after another, the gastric

juices began to heave. I can tell it's working and the eight-legged alligator is writhing in pain. Looks to be pretty effective.

But you know, just this is probably not enough to kill it off. No matter how I think about it, this will only give it diarrhea and abdominal pains at best. If that's the case, this time I'll take something new, and change into an old-styled form.

Looking at it, I'm a rectangular box with a retro silver color; there is a lever attached, and it's possible to manually activate it. From the bottom part, orange tube stretched and connected to an old-styled gas burner.

This is rarely seen anywhere but old traditional inns, hospitals, and dormitories; a gas vending machine. Putting in 100 yen, you can use it for several minutes. I thought that this would be a convenient ability for cooking outside, but if it seems like the vending machine's products won't sell well, I can still pull my weight with this function.
There is only one reason I turned into the gas vending machine. I eject the gas outside the Barrier. The gas keeps *pan pan* going into the stomach.

Though there's "gas" accumulating in its stomach like it would if it ate too much, this here is ACTUAL gas that's accumulating. As gas continues to be emitted, the gastric juices begin to roil into whirlpools. My body is caught up in the flow, and is being gradually drawn into the center.

Does it intend to evacuate me outside its body? If I stay like this, I won't be able to do anything before being transported into its bowels. Is this enough gas, will <Barrier> be able to withstand it; unless I try it I won't know, but I can only trust that there's merit in just trying.

… The problem is fire. Using the burner's ignition is a good idea, but I don't have a method to turn the knob. I can operate the vending machine's body to some extent, but the burner seems to be treated as an external options, so no matter where I try to put in my power, it doesn't work.
This isn't what I expected. Not good; it won't be long before I get sucked in. Fire, sparks, whatever I can get is fine! –tte, is THAT possible?

I change into the vending machine mode to heat up frozen products, and inside the electric microwave contained within me, I tried placing a canned product. Usually when I want to put something there I imagine it, and just one of

what I wanted will appear there.
The vending machine is my body. It's something I've become acquainted with over many months. For this much, I'm begging you!

Inside my body, along with a *clang* sound, I felt the sensation of a small can appearing.
Alri-ght, and now let's drop a towel and newspaper there.
This is something that's prohibited – – warming up a can in a microwave! Good kids better not try this at home!

While being afraid of the amazing sound I hear coming from inside me, I can feel the can giving off sparks. I shouldn't have the ability to feel anything, but I can definitely understand that something has occurred inside me.
A, here comes the fire.

《1O Damage; Endurance has been reduced by 10.》

I drop the canned beverage and the caught-on-fire towel and newspaper. And then, I prohibit these three things to be inside of the <Barrier>!

What was ejected from my retrieval opening is the firey towel and newspaper wrapped canned beverage. It's almost like watching a fireball being shot out.

The fireball ejected from the <Barrier>, the instant it went out and touched the stomach contents that were teeming with gas – – a huge explosion was induced.

"We look forward to seeing you again."

《Points were reduced by 1000.》

I can tell that there's reddish-brown something or other splattering past my eyes, but my field of vision was turning around and around, so I have absolutely no idea what happened.
Ooo-, it's like I'm drunk-!
With its stomach exploding, the pain must be unimaginable, I bet. Even if it's the level's eight-legged alligator ruler, it should eventually die … is how it should be!?

My surroundings is a meat wall, a reddish-brown, sticky, glistening, fleshiness that's completely a meat wall surrounds me. It's acting violently as usual, and my body is being violently jolted; if I had a flesh and blood body, I bet I'd be vomiting.

I don't know how much time had passed, but finally the body's swaying has calmed. Did the eight-legged alligator die? If that's what happened, then the problem becomes, exactly what should I do to get myself out of its body?

《Points are reduced by 1. Points are reduced by 1.》

A, yeah, yeah, I know. I'm still maintaining <Barrier>, so my Points continue to be reduced. I feel that if I raise my Defense I might be able to withstand the pressure of this flesh, but I'll need courage to test that. With my points reduced so much, I don't really have the liberty to try and release this though.

If I defeated this, then I'm really satisfied. I may have used up quite a bit of my saved up Points, but it was in order to live. No, I'm a vending machine, so it was in order to continue operating.

I think I did pretty good this time. Although I'm praising myself, I think this act is pardonable. Even as a vending machine, I managed, didn't I?

Now I just have to wait until Ramis and the others who escaped come back; I'll have to endure for them to reach the community and gather a group to come subjugate this, I guess. Y'know, I'm really glad I don't have a sense of smell.

If they're fast it will be half a day; on the long side I'll have to endure for several weeks. I'm a vending machine, so waiting in the same spot is just another part of my job. Let's think about what kind of new products I should ––*Fua*-?

Are, the meat clumps that filled my vision have disappeared, and I can see the sky and ground.

E, this here is outside. The meat has all neatly disappeared. *E*, what the, I don't really know what's going on, so I'm going to keep <Barrier> up.

This is around the bog we were just in, I think. The crack in the ground is there, and there's golden light flowing out of it; Hyurumi called this phenomenon breaking the level.

Are, then I really got out? Looking around at my surroundings, there's long, white objects clustered together, positioned like they were covering me. These are the eight-legged alligator's bones … I think.

So the flesh disappeared and only the bones remained. This is just what

happens when you defeat the level's Ruler, I guess. With the light flooding from the crack shining on it, this specimen of an alligator skeletons looks a little mysterious.

Somehow I'm feeling relieved, but I wonder if someone won't come and set me upright. Right now, because I'm lying on my side, I'm a little uncomfortable. I can't set myself back right-side up; at times like this I can really feel the inconveniences of this body. Standing as a vending machine.[1]

-tte are, the light from the crack was too dazzling so I didn't realize, but in front of my eyes, gold coins are falling down. These aren't the usual gold coins, *na*. From the ones I can see, the designs are completely different. On the surface is a finely detailed carving of the eight-legged alligator.

If this was a game, then this would be the so-called Boss Drop, I guess. It's an item that only drops from the boss so it looks like it has some value, but I don't have any arms or legs so I can't take them!

Since they're inside the Barrier, no one will be able to steal them. Hyurumi will probably know the details about this. Until then, I won't let anyone take them.

Now then, looks like I've been released from that lump of meat, so now, I can't really do anything but laze around and wait for someone to come by.

U-n, somehow the ground is still continuing to vibrate even now; this crumbling sound that I can hear through the ground is kind of bothering me, but I'm sure I'm imagining things.

U—n, the crack in the ground seems to be spreading out from there, almost like a mesh net even, and the light intensity is filling my entire vision with golden, but that's probably just me seeing things.

U——n, this feeling like the ground I'm lying on is gradually sinking is — This is, it's caving in!

E-, did this turmoil break down the ground? Or is it just like the thing called breaking the level, it's actually going to break through the level!? Ha,hang on a minute. If that happens, after the ground breaks, then what happens? E-, falling?
This is no joke, it's seriously bad. –tte, I remember having the same thoughts

before.
Hang on, someone, is there some person around with super-human strength-!? Is there some customer with super-human strength that can easily carry a vending machine-!?

“Welcome. Welcome. Welcome.”

I try calling out repetitively, but it only echoes through the uninhabited wetlands.

It’s times like these that I understand the blessing called Ramis. I was riding on the thrill of defeating a tough opponent, but in the end a vending machine is a vending machine. It can’t do anything on its own.
A-.
The ground that was support my body is gone; the vending machine falls, tumbling head over heels.
In this desperate situation, what floated up in my mind was Ramis’ tear-stained face.

---

1. not sure if the pun is intended, but ‘from the viewpoint of a vending machine,’ versus ‘to stand as a vending machine’. Anyway, I played it safe and translated kind of ambiguously.

<T/n: Thanks Egg and RS for your donations!
Are? From one cliff hanger to the next …
Sorry for the delays. Some intense bouts of vertigo … have you figured out I have a slightly not-so-good constitution yet? Lol. It’s mostly bad around the seasonal climate changes. There’s a reason people call me a human barometer…>

Falling

]

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

Falling

The ground split and crumbled.

Together with the earth, I'm in the middle of a nosedive. Looking upwards I see a ceiling of earth; up there, holes are opening up everywhere. Those holes aren't that big, so even though I fell, the eight-legged alligator's bones cover up the holes from above, and so it seems they were spared from free-falling.

And then, turning my eyes below, there are clouds. Because I have Barrier affixed to me, there's no feeling of air pressure, but … I can understand that I'm falling at a tremendous speed!
Eeeeee-, once you fall out of the ground there's a sky, it's fantasy alright!
Uooooo-, we're so high you can't see the ground, *eeee-, aaa-,* c,c,calm down!
First I should figure out the present circumstance. You need to understand your own situation!

The place is, in the middle of the clouds!
The situation is, in the middle of falling!
The result is, destruction by crashing!

So this is the end … it's like I'm giving up completely. Before I crash into the ground, I still have time. Let's put my head to work. To find a way to break through this situation of complete despair.
The only thing I can do is change my functions. If I apply all my vending machine abilities at full power, somehow, somehow, I'll pull through?

For a free-fall, reducing the falling speed would be good. In that case, the most

suitable vending machine for this is. This one-!
I pick out the <Balloon Vending Machine> from out of my functions, and change my body.

Previously they used to be put out a lot on the rooftop squares of department stores and in playgrounds, but now it seems that they're only put in old-feeling game centers, about.

It's a yellow body for the base with a glass window; In front if it is uninflated balloons hanging limply there. To buy, select the color you want from among them, put in the coins, and then the balloon with automatically be inflated.

-wait, I don't got the time to give you an explanation! As for color, I don't care; if I don't mass-produce balloons-.

After setting the balloons, gas starting flowing into them. The red balloons got steadily bigger ––-tte, if it's like this, there's not enough time by a lot. Can't I make them more quickly? A way to raise the speed … If I raise my Speed in the Status, would I be able to up my filling speed!?
Even if it's useless from the get-go, since I don't have the time, let's try it.

《Would you like to consume 10,000 Points to increase Speed by 10? 》

Yes, please!

There's a feeling like something entered my body. The speed the balloons are filling is … O-, I can tell it's going faster just by looking. It's become about twice as fast as before. If that's the case, then I'll raise it even further.

《Would you like to consume 20,000 Points to raise Speed by 10?》

The price hike is pretty awful, *ne*. Dammit, you point bastard, you better watch yourself at night. You can't escape peril without some sacrifices; another 10 up.

It's like watching it in fast-forward; every two seconds, one balloon is completed. The finished balloons are stopped inside the barrier, so the barrier's interior is packed with balloons.
Breaking through the clouds, I can begin to see the landscape below, but … what is it, that? A giant, complicated maze? Oh yeah, Ramis was talking about something about the levels. I think it was, below the Seiryu Lake level is a giant maze or something.

-tte, right now isn't the time for nostalgia. I'm gradually being shown exactly what it means that the Labyrinth is big. Maa, my fall speed basically has had no change, na.

There's no way that several tens of balloons will be able to hold up a several hundred kilo vending machine. I remember that back in the day, on a variety show, just for one adult human to float it took over two thousand balloons. That's why, from the beginning, it's not like I was thinking that balloons could hack it with this vending machine.

The labyrinth's walls are massive; that the height and scale are bizarre is something I can understand as I approach the ground. I don't have the time for typical plans. Then-!
What I selected here is – a change into a cardboard vending machine!

Let me explain!
The cardboard vending machine was something popular in elementary school; it's a vending machine you put together made out of cardboard! You can actually put in a coin, select a product, and when you push the switch, the product will come dropping down!

By the way, as a vending machine maniac, I bought and made a cardboard vending machine set!

That's right, right now my body has been changed to cardboard. In other words, I've suddenly changed to a weight that those many balloons can support.

HAAaaa, I made it. Thanks to filling up the interior of barrier with balloons, the fall speed dropped sharply, and I leisurely drifted down.

When I spotted the cardboard vending machine on the list of functions, I never thought that I would have the opportunity to take it, but to think that it would show its prowess in saving my life. It's really an inexplicable thing, na.
Now that I've relieved the worries in my heart, I enjoy looking at the scenery below me.

The walls of the giant circular maze is gray, so most likely the material is rock-like. The pathways drawn out are both curved and straight; it's quite complicated. I can see the entire thing, so let's take a picture with my internal security camera.

Because of my altitude, the exact size is unknown, but it seems like the size of the passages are, even on the narrow alleys, you could line up several of me side by side.

So there's a square-like area and a thing like a pond. I wonder how much the cost would be to make it on earth.

Like I said before, the level below the Seiryu Lake level should be the maze level. I think there's a proper name too, but Hyurumi always called it 'maze level' over and over that I don't remember the proper name.

This level is pretty troublesome and the nasty things are high, so they said Hunters have a prejudice against it. There are treasure chests that naturally come out, so it seems possible to get rich quick, but the enemies are strong and the traps are many. As a bonus, the path is a maze, so by proceeding along the bearing they thought best, it seems there weren't a few Hunters that died of starvation.
Looking at it from above, I think the awfulness of the complicated maze was accurately conveyed.

Oh, it looks like just a little more and I'll reach the ground. If I land like this on top of the path's wall, there wouldn't be anyone would buy from me like this, na. –tte, oo, the tops of the walls are at acute angles, so it's useless to try to climb them, huh?

Like this, it looks like I'll land in a large pathway near the wall. U-n, to be honest I don't really know what I should do, so I'll just continue like this and let nature take its course. If it continues like this, it looks like I'll touch down near the center of the maze.

The path's walls are even taller than I thought. It looks like they're over ten meters from the ground. The thickness is proportional, so the maze brought out walls similar to those of a five story multi-apartment.

Shakily descending, floating near the wall, somehow I managed a clean landing. Let's return to the usual vending machine.

Both the flooring and walls are stone, and there's no noticeable seam. There isn't anything like a light source on the wall, so when day turns to night, it seems like it will become dark suddenly.

The breadth of the path seems to be fifty meters about; to the left and right the long pathway stretches out. From the feeling I got while looking from above, I'm on a main pathway that runs directly to the dead center of the maze; if it's here, then the possibility of meeting Hunters would probably be high.

It's also a place that would make it easy for Ramis and the others when they come to meet me. It seems like a place I can stay for a while.

Usually, there probably aren't any curious existences that would come to help out a vending machine, but if it's Ramis she'll definitely come. Usually when the level breaks and you fall, whether you're a human or a vending machine, anyone would understand the futility.
Even so, Ramis is someone who will most definitely come, I feel.

The Bear President also owes me, and the Fools of Whimsy Brigade is also aiming for me, so I think they will actively participate in the search. At the least, it might end up that Ramis can only participate if she joins the Brigade, I bet, na.

If she's going to do anything reckless, Hyurumi should be there to stop her. Although I'm thinking that I want her to come help, on the other hand, I'm thinking I don't want her to do anything reckless. It's contradictory, I know, but these are my true feelings.

First of all, my first priority has to be thinking about how to extend my lifespan here. There's also the possibility of other Hunters coming by and saving me, na.

Alright, let's survey the surroundings. I've only looked around roughly; thoroughly observing and gaining information is a necessity to extending my lifespan.

Right now, the place I'm at is alongside the wall of a large passageway. The path spreads to the left and right of me, but the ends are too far away and I can't see. It stretches out directly, but along the way seem to be many side roads split off.

Right now I don't spot any monsters. Looking from above, I felt like there were quite a few large-sized monsters around, but I think there's nothing in this large passageway. This might be the maze's safe zone, na.

Now then, the thing that interests me the most has fallen in front of my eyes;

the coin with the eight-legged alligator etched on them. It was kept on the inside of the Barrier, so when I fell like this, the coin was also taken along with me.

In front of my eyes is a coin that seem to be worth something but I don't have any hands I can use; what a dilemma. Like this, if some random person picked it up and carried it off, I would be so enraged that I'd heat up all my products and cause them to spoil, zo.

But no matter how much I wish for hands, for a vending machine it's not possible. *Haa*, anyway, in order to live as long as possible, let's check my abilities and points again. In the battle with the eight-legged alligator, I consumed a large amount of the money I lifted off those thieves, na.

《

Vending Machine Hakkon

Endurance: 200/200

Durability:50

Strength: 0

Speed: 20

Dexterity: 0

Magic: 0

PT: 1,020,698

Functions:

Refrigeration, Heat Insulation, Omni-directional Sight, Hot Water Dispenser, Cup Ramen Support Mode, 2 Liter Support Mode, Coating Change, Boxed Product Support, Vending Machine Security Camera, Rod-Shaped Candy Dispenser, Oxygen Vending Machine, Magazine Vending Machine, Natural Gas Vending Machine, Cardboard Vending Machine,

Divine Gift:

Barrier

》

Just with my Endurance and Durability like this, it probably won't be an easy matter for me to be broken. With Speed, I think the speed when dropping down products and heating things up will decrease. Later on I think I'll have to experiment, na.

As for what else changed … n-, is there a bug?

The Point indicator seems a little weird. One, ten, hundred, thousand, ten thousand, hundred ten-thousand …. *hiyaa*, one million -!?[1]
E, a, u. eeeee-! Why are there more than one million? E, I don't remember doing anything criminal myself to get it, zo.

What's the meaning of this? Points are things that are exchanged from coins. I'm pretty sure the explanation said something similar. At that time a notice popped up when I had gotten some points from money. Let's check that again.

《It is also possible to convert 100 Yen to 1 Point.》

See, it's written that I can exchange money for points. But – it doesn't state that there aren't other ways to earn points.

Couldn't it be, points are originally something you earn from defeating enemies? In a game, it's the standard that after you defeat enemies, you get skill points. Maybe, changing money into points is a secondary method, and the original method to get your hands on points is to defeat enemies.

If that's the case, if this large amount of points is from defeating the eight-legged alligator, the level boss, then I can consent to it.

I see, so there are other ways to earn points than consuming money. I'd like to study it, but I think there won't be a second chance to defeat a monster. This time it all seemed to work out, but such a well-scripted scenario probably won't happen again.

As I thought, for a vending machine, earning money is the way to go.
A~nyway, now that I've confirmed understood the situation, it's fun spending time!

Now that I've gone over 1 million points, I can finally have the possibility of getting my hands on a new Divine Gift. To be honest, I though one million was a stupid amount of points I'd never get my hands on, but to think there was this other way.
Now then, let's carefully look over the Divine Gifts.

---

1. *Maa, although technically it would have gone from ten thousand to one million, the intervals in Japanese count ten thousand as a denomination, so it's 100 (ten thousands), aka a million. … Yes, I left it as 100 ten-thousands because I thought it was funny, like he wasn't expecting it to be 1 million at all.*
   That slight dig isn't really there in Japanese.
   … cough.

<T/n: Thanks Egg, Justinas, and RS for your donations!
Maa, sorry for the delay. If it's any consolation, I was desperately wishing I was translating/writing instead of doing the other things I was doing…>

A New Power

[Next Chapter>

Jidou Hanbaiki ni Umarekawatta ore wa Meikyuu o Samayou
Author: Hiru Kuma
—

A New Power

From the Divine Gifts that required me to get 1 million points, the necessary abilities are, oh, right, first let's organize them.
The sword related and hand-to-hand combat ones, and all the ones I can't use because I don't have hands or feet to use them are out of the question.
For fire magic, water magic, and all those magic related abilities, I don't have mana, so they're excluded.
For the ones that are left, let's analyze them carefully on whether they're useful abilities for a vending machine. First of all is this one.

《Telekinesis》, or PK[1], you could say; it's the psychic power to be able to move something without touching it, na. Let's look at the description.

《It is possible to manipulate any body within a one meter radius around yourself. However, it is restricted by weight and is limited to products only.》

A radius of one meter is, maa, it's usable. Just that much is enough to make me grateful. However, why is it limited to products? But, if I have this ability, I'll have the possibility of teaching people how to use the products. This is a possible selection. Then, let's look at the next one.

《Telepathy》
《You can deliver your inner thoughts to any person within a one meter radius around yourself.》

This is actually the Divine Gift I've been aiming for the most. If I have this, then it's possible for Ramis and me to have a conversation. The radius is small, but

even so, having the ability to make my intentions understood is huge.

《Instant Transition》
《It is possible to move anywhere within a one meter radius of yourself instantly.》

The average guy would call it teleportation. But I wonder why the effective radius is limited to one meter. But even if you say I can't move more than one meter, I would get my hands on a way to move around as a vending machine.

These three are strong contenders. However, that's only if they're abilities that work the way I imagine. Like Barrier, there's the possibility that these consume points to use.

If that's the case, then I'll have to consider the consumption too. If Ramis was here then I'd choose Telepathy without question. However, I'm a lone person – - lone box, all himself in this maze. I hesitate to choose it in this situation.

Instant Transition as well, in this huge maze, even if I get the ability to move by one meter, I feel like it would be a pitiful endeavor. Even if there's the possibility of activating it repeatedly, and even if there's the possibility of moving in the air, there's no way there isn't a downside, so I'm suspicious.

It seems that Telekinesis is the number one Divine Gift for a vending machine, na. If I'm able to manipulate my products, then the things that I can do greatly increase in scope. This is the most suitable-ish one, but there's no need to get it all in a hurry. I can't waste 1 million points.

Come to think of it, with just this many points, can't I choose something from the Functions too? I thought that I probably wouldn't able to take any Functions that cost over a 100 thousand, so I haven't looked for the most part.
Maa, I think I've pretty much decided on a Divine Gift, but lets take a look at the Functions – – e, there's something like this?

《Vending Machine Rank Up》

What is this, these words that make a vending machine maniac's soul sway? No, wait. Rather than something like this, I've already decided that choosing a Divine Gift would be more efficient. M,maa, just a little, I'm just going to look at the description.

《Rather than a vending machine that only receives coins and cash as compensation, it will be a machine that can accept goods and services without the aid of an assistant. Once you upgrade to become the defined item, you will be able to further take various option parts.》

What did you say … in other words, there will be Functions that I couldn't choose before, and even the vending machine body itself will increase in variety? Things that I, as an item called a vending machine this entire time, am unable to choose.

If I become not a vending machine, if I become that item that was described, then I will have Functions that I can choose from that were restricted to that item.
I can't just not choose ––– wait wait wait. Calm down, me. First, let's take a deep breath and be cool, be cool.

"Welcome! Welcome!"

Alright, I'm calm. First, since this is another world, and even more so on the Maze Level, to choose a Divine Gift to prolong my life, that would probably be the correct answer. That's right. I've understood that point.

But, but you know, I'm a vending machine. I'm someone whose love has grown after getting this body. Although the reason behind my reincarnation is still unknown. It would be unforgiveable to forget that I am a maniac who was reborn as a vending machine.

Do I want to be a vending machine that manipulate things with psychic powers, or do I want surpass a vending machine with various functions?

《The vending machine's Rank has increased to 2.》

Those words floated in my mind for just a second, my body overflowed with power … is what definitely didn't happed; absolutely nothing changed. If there's a Rank 2, then you can probably increase Rank further. I'm kind of looking forward to it.
From within my body a fever is coming out; I think about it calmly. Could it be, that I've screwed up?

N, no, certainly becoming more powerful is also a convenient matter. But, I'm

a vending machine. I forgot that and got my priorities backwards. Before, every time something was an inconvenience, something or other was able to come along and I managed, na.

Un, un. No matter what I chose I'd end up compromising and making a mistake, but at least my mistake was made because I chose while thinking about the future, so I have little regret.
Reflection time is over!
Immediately, let's get our hands on a Function I can use now that I'm Rank 2.

The white, slender and long body with the coin drop opening is obvious, but there's plastic hose part that's parallel to my side that's come out.

Furthermore, there's a trigger like on a gun there; when I pull it, *guuu* a good, heavy sound rang out and it sucked in air. There's also a switch next to the trigger; when I push that, a fierce wind can be blown out; it's a superior item.
It looks like it starts up properly, na – – the coin-operated vacuum left at self-service car washes.

I just explained it, but out of all the coin-operated vacuums, this is the model is the one I like best; it doesn't just suck but also has the ability to blow air so you can go under your seats and blow out all the dust.

The problem is this. My intentions are to see if I can freely use the suction and blowing at will in order to manipulate it. If it's possible, then I can shoot the tip of the hose outside of the Barrier.

If I can shoot the tip of the hose outside of the barrier, then I can stop myself from tumbling around on the ground. This vacuum hose is a light two meters plus, so it's possible to shoot it out.
And then, now I'll blow out air, STOP!
Just a little bit, the gust should be stronger … whoops, this time it's too strong.
Just a bit more, with the wind in short bursts, and I can fine-tune the position.

And the result of over ten minutes of struggles, somehow or other, I've transported the tip of the hose to my ideal spot. That's right, to near where the eight-legged alligator coin is.

Before someone else takes it, it's better to have a way to take it in myself.
Having reached that conclusion, I carried out my mission.

Hose in position, OK! No hindrances in sight! Begin the suction!

From the mouth of the vacuum a noise resounded, and the sand and dirt all togethere were sucked in at once. The main aim, the coin, is also unable to withstand the suction, so it sidled up to the mouth of the vacuum and disappeared inside of it.

Mission complete.

I can tell the coin is bouncing around in the hose. Oh yeah, after this, I wonder what will happen to the coin. I'm pretty sure this vacuum ejects out back, where there's a garbage bin installed and there is where the trash should fall into.

《The Coin of the Eight-Legged Alligator has been added to your Possessions.》

What? E, Possessions you say? There shouldn't be that kind of thing, na. If there's an issue, act on it immediately. Let's check out my abilities.

《

Vending Machine Hakkon Rank 2
Endurance: 200/200
Durability:50
Strength: 0
Speed: 20
Dexterity: 0
Magic: 0
PT: 18,595
Functions:
Refrigeration, Heat Insulation, Omni-directional Sight, Hot Water Dispenser, Cup Ramen Support Mode, 2 Liter Support Mode, Coating Change, Boxed Product Support, Vending Machine Security Camera, Rod-Shaped Candy Dispenser, Oxygen Vending Machine, Magazine Vending Machine, Natural Gas Vending Machine, Cardboard Vending Machine, Coin-Operated Vacuum
Divine Gift:
Barrier
Possessions: The Coin of the Eight-Legged Alligator
》

Oo, Possessions has been added to my status. That my Points have

completely been reduced, and that Rank 2 is written there, there are other things I'm interested in, but first is the Possessions check, na.

《The Coin of the Eight-Legged Alligator. Proof that you have defeated a Level Ruler.》

That's it-!?
E, there's no other explanation? Is this just some collector's item? Or is it some coin that holds some important meaning? I don't really understand, but it probably won't hurt me to keep it.

…. I wonder if I can take the coin out. Even if I take it out, it will take time to suck it back up again, so I won't do it now. That Level Ruler's name is actually Eight-Legged Alligator, huh?

The points have been cut down to around 20,000, so it wasn't too unreasonable . The coin-operated vacuum actually consumed 2000 points. Of the Functions I'm able to choose from now that I'm Rank 2, there are a considerable amount of expensive ones; I didn't notice.

Because I did the thins I had to do, I've quieted down a lot. Maa, because of that, the current situation becomes more real and pressing. I'm in one of the Level's most find-able spots, so I estimate that the chances of running into Hunters who come to capture the Level are high.

From there the problem becomes what Ramis and any other resident of Seiryu Lake Level with good sense will do. And then, if thieves or the like come, it wouldn't be weird if I was broken or carried off. There also aren't any customers to secure anywhere here.

I should take into account the worst case scenarios. First I should secure the Points that are to be used only to preserve Barrier. And then, if I can find another method to get Points, that would be good. I can also suspend Functions to preserve points, so I'm not too worried.

That said, subjugating monsters … is impossible, na. Defeating the Eight-Legged Alligator was just good luck. Even if you say do this or that again, I don't really want to, yup.

If anything happens and just suspending my Functions is enough, I have

enough to withstand a year, but you never know what's going to happen in this other world. Or like, why did I sink 1 million Points into a Rank Up; if I think about it, I'll lose.

《The vending machine's form-change time has gone over the two hour time limit. Immediately return to the original vending machine. I repeat. The vending machine's form-change time has gone over the two hour time limit. Immediately return –》

What the!? All of a sudden a warning reverberated inside my head, and those words showed up. Form change time limit? E-, th,thinking about will have to take place later; returning back to the usual vending machine should be fine, na.

Immediately doing so, I returned to the usual vending machine, and the alarm and words disappeared. I've never experienced this before, but other than the original vending machine form, the most I've spent in another form on any day has never gone over two hours, huh?

Up until now I've turned into many forms, but come to think of it, I'd always feel kind of uncomfortable in other forms so I'd change back into the usual vending machine. So I've never gone over two hours in another model … I didn't realize.

Two hours in one day is the limit, huh? It would be better if I stopped using a different form without a good reason.

Adding this into the mix, recently I've been relying on Ramis and Hyurumi all the time. A vending machine should be a convenient machine able to sell anything without a sale assistant. This is a good opportunity. Let's see how far I can make it on my own.

[Next Chapter>

---

1. **Actually, the name of the ability is <Nen Douryoku> and he explains it by calling it telekinesis, but since Nen Douryoku is 'telekinesis' in Japanese, I switched it about a bit. PK is psychokinesis, another descriptor of telekinesis. I was going to call it "Mind Power, but telepathy was the next**

ability, so I opted to keep them similarly translated.

T/n: Thanks Random dude for your donation!

I was DYING laughing through this.

Anyway, Happy Halloween! I barely made it in time for a Halloween update…>